■ Entertainment/ A28

It's a boy for newlyweds Glydel, Tonton

■ World/ A10

6 Moroccans in Madrid blasts identified

■ Lifestyle/ C1

Surfing to a photo shoot

■ Business/ B1

CalPERS delays decision on RP pullout

■ Across/ A20

Fil-Ams revive ancestors' lost art

■ News/ A2

GMA won't attend March 22 debate

Poe camp boasts of free access to NPA areas

FANS KO YAN, E!

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENTIAL candidate Fernando Poe Jr. is so popular on the stump that communist guerrillas have exempted him and candidates of his Koalisyon ng

POE/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tanong ng Bayan
/ A22

Dapat bang mag-leave of absence si GMA?
NGAYONG ALAS-10 NG GABI

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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FPJ drops talks with Ping

Poe's camp infuriated by Lacson leak, precondition

By Christine O. Avendaño and Norman Bordadora

THE MUCH-ANTICIPATED unification talks fell through yesterday with actor Fernando Poe Jr. calling off the meeting with Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Leaders of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino did not offer an official explanation for Poe's decision to call off the meeting.

But Sen. Edgardo Angara, a KNP leader, said Poe apparently did not like the "precondition" set by Lacson and the leaking of the meeting to the media by the senator's camp.

Days before the meeting, Lacson said he would ask Poe to be his running mate, prompting the actor's supporters to call on the senator to quit the presidential race because of his poor showing in recent surveys.

"It became too much of a media event," Angara said of the scheduled meeting. Angara said Poe had wanted an "honest-to-goodness" talk with Lacson.

All is not lost though. KNP spokesperson Mike Romero said the meeting would be rescheduled next month.

The KNP wants a unified opposition because, according to the latest opinion polls, Poe is in a statistical tie with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is seeking a full six-year term. The KNP expects to get the bulk of Lacson's supporters should the senator quit the presidential race.

Sen. Vicente Sotto III, Poe's personal campaign manager, said the movie actor had "kept his word" to keep the meeting confidential. Sotto said that even he did not know about the meeting until it was leaked to the media.

"For Poe, word of honor is important," Sotto said in a phone interview. Asked whether the Lacson camp should be blamed, Sotto said

FPJ/ A21

ERIK ARAZAS

BAD HAIR day for Eddie Gil, who vows to file a motion for reconsideration and, if necessary, to take his case all the way to the Supreme Court and fight his disqualification even after the election.

Gil a nuisance bet–Comelec

By Martin P. Marfil

EDDIE Gil is a "nuisance candidate" and "logically" should not be allowed to run for president, the Commission on Elections said yesterday.

"This commission, as the vanguard of the people in the determination of the chosen representative of the electorate in government, will not be an instrument to subvert that choice. The circumstances in the case at bar warrant that respondent be declared a nuisance candidate," said the poll body's second division chaired by Commissioner Mehol Sadain.

"All told, as logic will tell us, it is inevitable to conclude that the respondent is not a stranger to the games of charlatans and impostors," it said of the standard-bearer of Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa.

Guillermo Luz, secretary general of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), told reporters that it was "a good decision on the part of the Comelec."

Luz added: "Gil should never have been qualified in the first place."

Gil, who arrived at the Comelec grounds about an hour after the promulgation of the decision, said he planned to appeal it and to continue his campaign.

He tore up a copy of the decision and said he could accept losing in the presidential election, but not being disqualified.

"I have the capacity to campaign anywhere, even throughout the world, not only in the Philippines," he declared.

Gil, who had promised to make every Filipino a millionaire if elected president, also said he would join his supporters if trouble broke out because of his disqualification.

GIL/ A21

Disqualifying GMA would be 'a miracle'

By Blanche Rivera and Jerry Esplanada

PREACHER Eddie Villanueva, standard-bearer of the Bangon Pilipinas Party, said it would "require a miracle" for the Commission on Elections to act on the petition seeking to disqualify President Macapagal-Arroyo for allegedly exceeding television advertising time limits.

"Everybody knows [about] the blatant violations of Comelec rules and regulations, but nobody can believe that the President will be made answerable by the Comelec," said Villanueva, who was in Davao City on Monday on the same day as the President.

Villanueva said it would be almost impossible for the President to be convicted of election violations despite the obvious proof. The Comelec is headed by Benjamin Abalos, a former officer of Ms Macapagal's political party Lakas.

Villanueva said only a righteous government would have the courage to implement the rule of law regardless of who was in power.

Jose Vicente B. Salazar, a member of Pro-Con(stitution), asked the Comelec on Monday to disqualify Ms Macapagal on the ground that the President had already logged 189 minutes of television ad time from Feb. 10 to March 11, exceeding the 120 minutes allotted to each presidential candidate.

Pro-Con is the same group which filed a suit against the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office

DISQUALIFYING/ A21

Health, cell phone on mind of kids, says TV survey

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHAT'S ON the mind of kids these days?

Being healthy, an allowance of at least P22 a day, and a Nokia mobile phone.

These were among the key findings of an extensive, pioneering study on the minds and habits of Filipino children aged 7-14 spearheaded by Cartoon Network.

Called New Generations Philippines 2004, the study revealed that "being healthy" was first priority, with 90 percent of children surveyed saying that it was very important.

"Being praised by parents" was the next priority, followed by "being praised by teachers."

HEALTH/ A22

'Madrid can happen anywhere in the world'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE THREAT of simultaneous al-Qaida-style attacks against multiple targets designed to inflict massive casualties is the biggest problem facing police around the world today.

This was according to the chief of Interpol at the opening yesterday of the two-day regional security conference of top police officials from 63 countries.

Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble warned that the deadly Madrid bombings could happen anywhere in the world.

The conference opened five days after suspected al-Qaida militants bombed commuter trains in the Spanish capital of Madrid, killing 200 people and injuring 1,500 in the deadliest terror attack in Europe.

The Madrid bombings fit the al-Qaida-style of "multiple simultaneous targets seeking to perpetrate massive harm ... in an environment that is likely to have a worldwide impact," Noble said.

The Interpol chief said it might not be a coincidence that the Madrid attacks took place on March 11—exactly 911 days from the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States, which are also known as "9/11."

The Madrid bombings and the 2001 ramming of hijacked planes into New York's World Trade Center and the Pen-

MADRID/ A8

BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

NOT A KITE, FOLKS A four-seater Cessna whose engine quit while taking part in the "Araw ng Dabaw" festivities became itself a major attraction (and concern) after it crash-landed in the waters off Davao. The pilot, Capt. Aldrin Montemayor, was rescued unharmed by the Navy.

47 YEARS LATER

Magsaysay: Original 'Man of the Masses'

By Volt Contreras

VOTERS should look for the qualities of the man fondly known as "The Guy" in choosing the next president, according to the family and friends of President Ramon Magsaysay, whose 47th death anniversary is being marked today.

Magsaysay, or RM, served as President for three years and three months before he died at 50 in a plane crash on March 17, 1957. Since then, he has been hailed as the original "Man of the Masses" whose fabled common touch galvanized national politics and raised the hopes of the post-war citizenry.

"He was a genuinely simple man in the sense that he felt and acted directly without any artificiality or hypocrisy; he was very down to earth," said Jose V. Abueva, a former president of the University of the Philippines.

"He wasn't bothered by the verbiage of other people trained in law and other professions," Abueva added.

Carmencita Abella, president of the RM Award Foundation, said Filipinos could find another "well-loved" leader like Magsaysay "if we demand" it of the present crop of aspirants for the presidency.

"But if all we demand of our leaders is that they look good, sing or dance well, or promise us heaven or earth, that's what we'll get," Abella said in an interview

MAGSAYSAY/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

ORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience nostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms be-oming widespread rains over Eastern Mindanao. The rest of the country vill have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshow-rs.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/03/17/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Widespread Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

NO FPJ, NO GLORIA

GMA won't attend March 22 debate

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday formally declined to take part in a presidential debate scheduled for March 22 because of the refusal of her opposition rival Fernando Poe Jr. to participate.

"The debates are a means to offer the people a choice between the most probable winners and President Macapagal does not wish to address an empty chair," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a letter to the debate's organizers—Pulse Asia, Inc., the Philippine Political Science Association and the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development.

The March 22nd debate is one of at least three presidential debates being organized before the May 10 polls. The candidates were given until yesterday to indicate whether they would participate in the first of these debates.

Bunye said the Palace would be waiting for developments in the two other presidential debates being organized by the Commission on Elections/Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and the INQUIRER/GMA 7.

"Much as she respects and appreciates the sponsors and organizers of the debate, she is being held back by the non-participation of Mr. Fernando Poe Jr., in this event," Bunye said.

According to Bunye, the President has in the past few weeks aggressively sought a debate so the campaign can be fought on issues and on the basis of the experience of the candidates.

"We believe that Mr. Poe's absence would not make the debate meaningful since it will not differentiate the views of the two top contenders in the polls," he said.

Bunye told reporters that Malacañang would like to see "how things develop over the next few days" with regard to the two other presidential debates, hinting that the President would participate if Poe agrees to join any of these debates.

Michael Defensor, the President's campaign spokesperson, said the President's participation would depend on Poe's decision.

"We respect the position of Mr. Fernando Poe Jr. Of course we don't want to insist on something that is beyond us. It's his decision and we respect that," Defensor said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Trivia takes up most of media coverage–Roco

By TJ Burgonio

ROCO

TRIVIA, not issues, takes up too much of media reporting of candidates on the campaign trail.

This is the lament of Alyansa ng Pag-Asa standard-bearer Raul Roco who said the elections are being trivialized by too much media focus on some candidates' inane remarks, inter-party strife, and surveys.

Roco was reacting to a remark made the other day by Sen. Vicente Sotto III, campaign manager of opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., who said that people vote according to a candidate's personality, and not on his platform of government, apparently in defense of the actor's continued refusal to join debates.

"Who cares (about them)? These do not solve poverty, budget deficit, the peace and order problem, and peso devaluation," Roco said in a phone interview. Commenting further on Sotto's remark, Roco said: "That's his opinion. It can be as good or as bad as anybody else's. But it doesn't solve the problems of the people. It doesn't improve the lives of the people."

Congressional leaders yesterday also scored Sotto for the "irresponsible" remark.

In a joint statement, Lakas-CMD Representatives Alan Peter Cayetano (Taguig-Pateros), Prospero Pichay,(Surigao del Sur) and Antonio Cuenco (Cebu City) said Sotto's statement was "an insult to the intelligence and growing political maturity of the electorate."

"It is an insult to the Filipinos to say voters don't look at the platform. The Filipinos are more mature now and we should not triviliaze public office. This isn't "Starstruck," this is the Republic of the Philippines," said Cayetano, House assistant majority leader.

Cuenco, on the other hand, said that by advocating for personality, Sotto was admitting that Poe has no substantive and definitive platform to speak of.

Pichay, chair of the committee on national defense, said Sotto's remark "smacks of his low esteem for the electorate's discernment and intelligence."

Roco reminded his former colleague that a personality—actor Joseph Estrada, who is Poe's bosom buddy—was elected President in 1998, but was ousted three years later and is now being tried for plunder charges.

Unification talks between Poe and Sen. Panfilo Lacson as well as the results of poll surveys were "trivialities" that the press should not have pursued, Roco added.

"People put too much attention on surveys. These are speculative because they are not real," said the former education secretary who has consistently landed in third place behind either President Macapagal-Arroyo or Poe in recent surveys done by Pulse Asia Inc. and Social Weather Stations.

Roco instead proposed that substantive issues such as the country's foreign debt, budget deficit, tax collection efforts, among others, be tackled by the media as well as public forums.

"We must put things in the proper context, otherwise we go on a downward slope," he said. "People are asking (for a debate on issues), but we keep ignoring them with such inane observations and personalities."

Tito: Enough of corruption

VICE President Teofisto Guingona Jr. yesterday said the real issue in the May 10 elections is "the need for moral governance, and for programs and reforms that will rebuild our country."

"Our people have had enough of corruption and the blatant raiding of public coffers for personal gain and vested political interest," Guingona said. The vice president issued the statement three days after he announced he had accepted the offer to be the adviser for governance and public policy of opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.

Interviewed over the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), Guingona pointed out that "all too often, we see transactions and contracts which are touted as being legal and supposedly for the public benefit, even as these same deals are immoral and ridden with corruption."

"One such spectacle is the Diosdado Macapagal Highway which has been found to be grossly overpriced," Guingona said. Infamous as the "Raid to Perdition," the highway was alleged to be overpriced by hundreds of million of pesos and charges have been filed against public works officials and the private contractor.

"We must advise against practices that have betrayed and eroded the very spirit of Edsa II," the Vice President said.

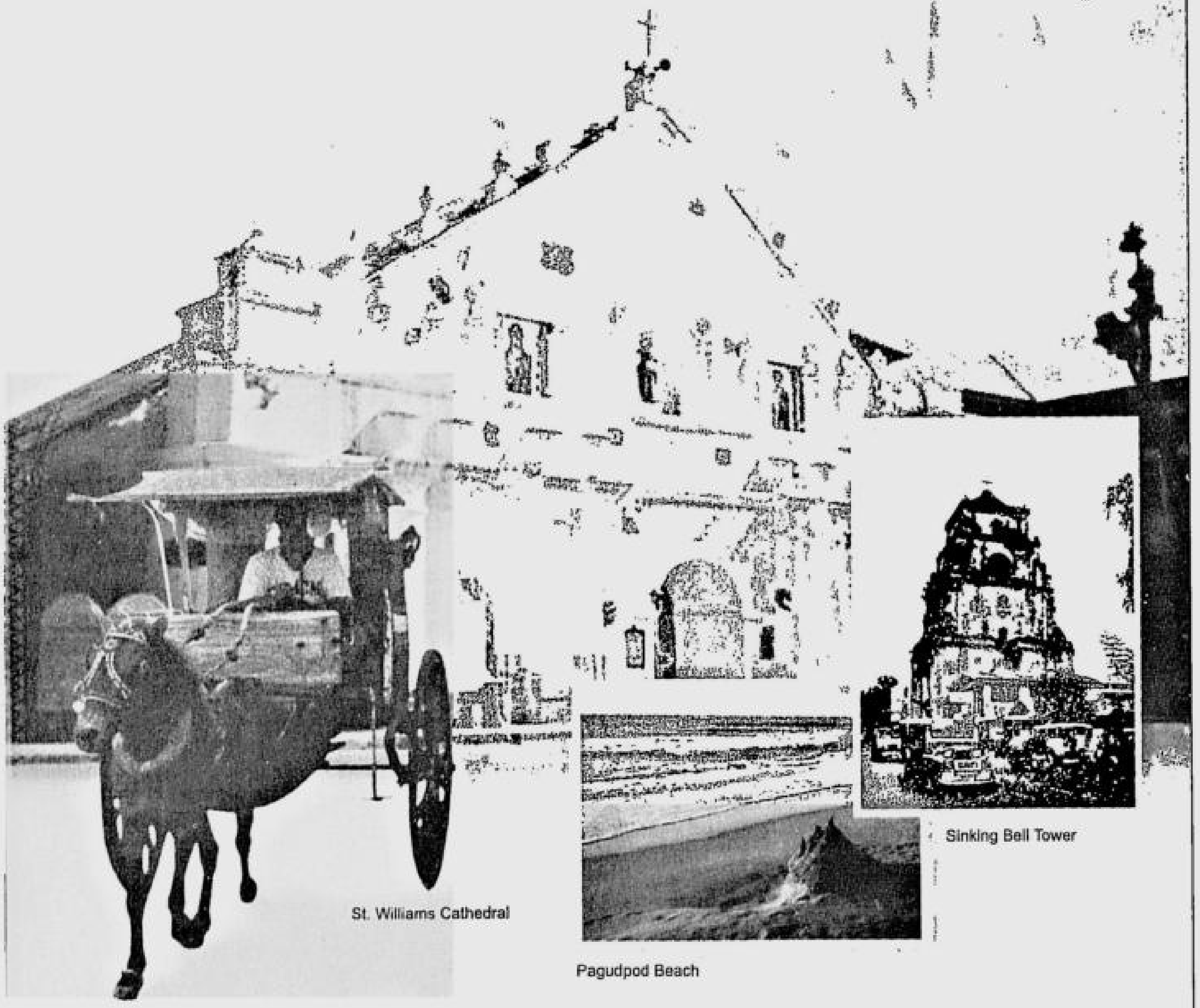
"The ones who committed treason to Edsa Dos are those who have allowed corrupt deals and manipulated our institutions for financial and political gains, " Guingona said.

On his decision to accept the offer of Poe to act as adviser for governance and public policy, the Vice President reiterated that he had done so only after the standard-bearer of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino adopted and committed to implement an eight-point action program which involves, among others, reforming the pork-barrel system to eliminate graft, enacting a law defining and prohibiting political dynasties, empowering local governments, and infusing moral conduct in government.

"If I had wanted to take the easy route, if I were motivated by political convenience, I could have easily just gone back to Lakas and accept the offer to lead the senatorial ticket of the administration. I go from administration in power to a candidate who is not in power."

"But I believe that we must now move to return moral governance to our country with a leader who has the sincerity, social intelligence and political will to pursue programs and reforms that will rebuild our country," he said.

Our sun is now rising in the north.



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JDV jumping ship? It's all intrigue–Lakas

By Cynthia D. Balana

IT'S all intrigue.

This was how Lakas congressmen described what they claimed reports allegedly being floated by members of the opposition coalition that the next big defector to their side after Vice President Teofisto Guingona would be Speaker Jose de Venecia, leader of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democracts.

Rep. Aurelio Umali of Nueva Ecija said the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP) was just trying to drive a wedge to make up for the exodus of former President Joseph Estrada's key allies, among them Nueva Ecjia Gov. Tomas Joson, Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Vicente Emano, Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares, Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, former Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy and former Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles.

Umali said it was "unthinkable" that De Venecia would leave the Lakas party being one of the forces behind the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"It's all intrigue. The Speaker's integrity and loyalty are beyond question," he said.

Talks that De Venecia would bolt the ruling coalition to back the presidential bid of opposition front-runner Fernando Poe Jr. spread after Guingona joined the movie actor's camp to act as his adviser on good governance but only for the duration of the poll period.

The vice president justified his decision, saying his move was meant to quash Ms Macapagal's quest for a fresh six-year mandate and reverse the socioeconomic downturn and curb corruption in government.

Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado of Nueva Ecija said the KNP had no basis for claiming De Venecia's planned defection because it was not in the character of the Speaker to abandon his own party mates, especially the President who was his running mate when he ran for president in the 1998 elections.

"The opposition is just trying to drive a wedge between the Speaker and the President. The Speaker will never give up his loyalty for Lakas and his support for the President," Sy-Alvarado said.

Extort, blackmail raps versus Noli

A NON-GOVERNMENT organization yesterday charged Sen. Noli de Castro, the administration candidate for vice president, with extortion, blackmail and other offenses before the Ombudsman's office.

Members of the Bagong Lahing Pilipino Development Foundation (BLPDF) trooped to the anti-graft body's offices yesterday to charge De Castro with graft for allegedly attempting to extort from them P3.5 million in 2002 and for using his television show "Magandang Gabi Bayan" to destroy their reputation.

A BLPDF official said that other groups and individuals also plan to come forward and expose other cases of alleged extortion attempts by the broadcaster-turned-politician.

"To those who betray pubic trust and prostitute media institutions just so they could enrich themselves, let this be a warning that the victims will not suffer in silence and cow in fear," said BLPDF secretary general Andrew Gonzales.

Reached for comment, De Castro said: "That's a brazen lie. The pattern is clear: Destroy me at all cost. From extortion to kidnapping to GMA-junking, they're all meant to malign me and destroy me before May 10. I want all of them to come out and bring me to court so I can answer them, if indeed they have a case against me."

Gonzales claimed to be a distant relative and namesake of jailed ex-president Estrada's education secretary, Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, who actually spelled his surname with a final "z."

"Enough is enough. We are fighting back," Gonzales said in a press statement that he issued after the filing.

Gonzales accused De Castro of destroying the BLPDF's reputation after the group failed to give P3.5 million in "membership fee" to De Castro's Kabayan Foundation. *Armand Nocum*

Only 13 absentee votes cast so far

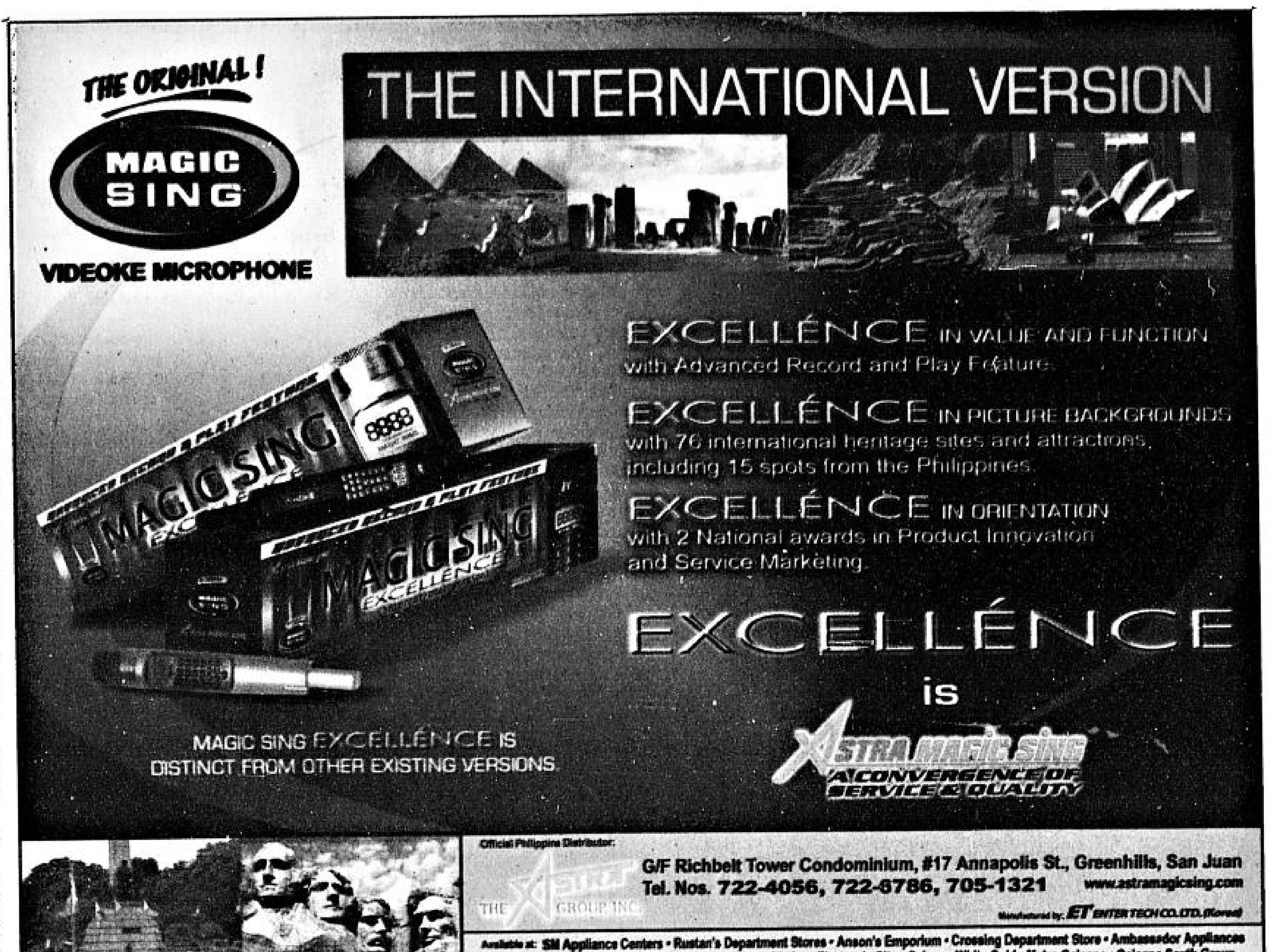
By Jerome Aning

SO FAR, only 13 Filipino seamen have cast absentee votes in the May 10 elections, even as the government announced plans to set up more polling precincts to increase voter turnout abroad.

Catherine Maceda, vice chair of the Department of Foreign Affairs' Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat, said the DFA and the Commission on Elections would set up more field and satellite voting precincts before April 11, when some 350,000 land-based overseas voters begin casting their ballots.

Maceda also said Philippine Embassy and election personnel in countries where there were very few registered voters were making arrangements for the latter to vote on schedule so the precincts would not have to be opened every day just to wait for one to 10 voters.

Maceda said the Comelec has approved the setting up of satellite precincts in Hanoi, Jakarta, Washington D.C., Baltimore, Madrid, Rome, The Hague, Abuja, Baghdad and Tehran.



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Travel ban issued vs 30 in scam

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has ordered the immigration bureau to immediately issue a hold departure order against 20 officials and 10 private individuals charged with plunder for the P134-million vehicle repair scam at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The anti-graft court has asked for the documents on the scam so it can issue an arrest warrant against the accused, and Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he has placed his staff on a 24-hour work to photocopy 36,000 vouchers related to the scam.

"We have a roomful of documents. packed in 24 boxes. If we complete our job in three days, then we can have the arrest warrants issued by Friday," he said.

Plunder is a non-bailable capital offense.

The Sandiganbayan's 2nd division trying the plunder cases issued the order to the immigration bureau to stop the accused from fleeing.

Told that some of the accused DPWH officials may have already left the country, Villa-Ignacio said the government would work for their extradition.

He said prosecutors will be working with the foreign affairs department to find out which of the 30 accused have left the country.

The Office of the Ombudsman last week filed plunder charges against the 30 who were found to have allegedly made false transactions and claims for the bogus repair of 521 vehicles at the DPWH from March to December 2001.

Charged as principal respondent in the case was Maximo Borje Jr., former head of the DPWH motor pool section. He was found to have accumulated some P82,321,855.38 from "false claims and transactions."

Charged as "conspirators" were Burt B. Favorito, Florendo B. Arias, Erdito Quarto, Agerico Pålaypay, Napoleon S. Anas, Danilo Planta, Luisito dela Rosa, Rogelio Beray, Norma Villarmino, Ricardo M. Juan, Nelson Umali and Maria Luisa T. Cruz.

The private respondents, mostly car parts suppliers, were Conchita de la Cruz, Janette Bugayong, Jesus Capuz, Rodellia Uy, Romeo Fullido, Victoria Go, Carmelito Edem, Augusto Capuz and Vicente Santos Jr.

Villa-Ignacio said the filing of plunder charges in connection with the vehicle repair scam was just the beginning.

Last week, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo ordered the suspension of Bureau of Internal Revenue assistant commissioner Edwin Abella for "amassing unexplained wealth."

Abella was one of more than 10 ranking officials of the DPWH, the Bureau of Customs and the BIR who were charged with graft for failing the government's lifestyle check program.

Judge fined for slow justice

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Justice delayed is justice denied.

This was stressed by the Supreme Court on Monday when it castigated a municipal trial court judge in Tupi, South Cotabato, who was found guilty of undue delay in rendering a decision.

The high court fined Judge Gaydifredo Ocampo P11,000, and warned him that a repetition of the offense would be dealt with more severely.

In an eight-page decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, the SC said: "Judges should be imbued with a high sense of duty and responsibility in the discharge of their obligation to promptly administer justice."

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by Esterlina Acuzar on May 31, 2001, who charged Ocampo before the Office of the Chief Justice with "gross misconduct, bias and partiality."

Acuzar, a litigant in a civil case pending before Ocampo's sala, said Ocampo had sat on her case for collection of a sum of money against Rodrigo Cruz.

Ocampo denied the charges, saying the delay was due to the motions for postponement filed by both parties which he granted to avoid being accused of denying due process.

Later, Ocampo wrote the SC to say that he already decided the civil case in favor of Acuzar. Acuzar moved to withdraw her administrative complaint. But the SC disregarded the withdrawal and proceeded to resolve the complaint.

The Office of the Court Administrator, which investigated the charge, said Ocampo was guilty of undue delay.

It said that "a period of a little less than three years to dispose of a simple case of collection of money is indicative of inefficiency."

Jobless rate rises to 11%

THE JOBLESS rate in the Philippines rose to 11.0 percent in January from 10.1 percent in October, data released yesterday showed.

The unemployment rate was also up from 10.6 percent in January 2003, but off a recent peak of 12.7 percent in July.

The Philippines is failing to create enough jobs for its rapidly growing population. Some five to seven million Filipinos out of a population of 80 million work abroad.

The government said there were 3.899 million unemployed people in January compared with 3.554 million in October and 3.559 million in January 2003.

The National Capital Region, which includes Metro Manila, recorded the highest unemployment rate at 16.9 percent, the statistics office said.

The national employment rate dropped to 89.0 percent in January from 89.4 percent in the same month last year.

Agriculture accounted for 11.1 million jobs, the industry sector employed five million while the services sector accounted for 15.3 million. *Reuters*

Baseless, says Saycon of raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

BASELESS and malicious.

This was how Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) Secretary General Pastor "Boy" Saycon and his co-accused in the "Kawal affair" described the inciting to sedition and flag desecration charges filed against them at the Department of Justice.

In their counter-affidavits, Saycon and his co-accused—a Commander Larry Andes and Kawal members Army Captains Peter Navarro, Rembert Baylosis and Philip Esmeralda—denied they were planning to overthrow the government and formally asked the DOJ to dismiss the charges. Another co-accused, Copa official Boy Montelibano, did not file an affidavit.

The respondents finally submitted their counter-affidavits to the DOJ yesterday after a month of delays.

The National Bureau of Investigation filed the charges against the six on Feb. 16, after the press conference of Jan. 26, 2004, in which the military officers as members of "Kawal" (Soldier) aired their grievances against the government and displayed two Philippine flags sewn together on which the name of their group had been written.

Saycon's lawyers also presented the affidavits of journalists Arnold Clavio of GMA Channel 7 and Manuel Mogato of Reuters, who had covered the press conference. Both men said there was nothing clandestine or seditious about the Jan. 26 press conference.

The DOJ has subpoenaed Clavio, Mogato and INQ7 reporter Fe Zamora to appear at the next hearing on March 30. Zamora is reportedly readying her own affidavit in support of the respondents.

"What was alleged in the complaint... were made as a consequence of a free and peaceful discussion... among the persons present at the meeting. These were all possible scenarios brought out during the discussions. There was nothing unlawful or illegal about the meeting," Saycon said in his counter-affidavit.

Librarians' seminar

THE ASSOCIATION of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP) will hold a seminar-workshop on "Developing Competencies for Librarians and Information Professionals for Quality Service" on April 14-16, at Vicmar Resort and Hotel, Baybay, San Jose, Tacloban City.

The seminar-workshop aims to: instill the values of professionalism among librarians and information providers; develop and acquire new skills that make for quality library and contribute to the development of librarians as competent communication professionals.

For reservation and inquiries please contact any of the following:

Cora Garcia (BSP); 524-92-17, Fax 524-73-63; Cora Tolentino (Senate), Telefax 552-68-55; Nelia Balagapo (ADB), 632-49-14, e-mail: pro_aslp@yahoo.com; Jocelyn Ladlad (DLSU), 524-88-35, and Avelina Sayson (Texla) 810-67-83.

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0331, SERIES OF 2004.

Travel ban issued vs 30 in scam

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has ordered the immigration bureau to immediately issue a hold departure order against 20 officials and 10 private individuals charged with plunder for the P134-million vehicle repair scam at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The anti-graft court has asked for the documents on the scam so it can issue an arrest warrant against the accused, and Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said he has placed his staff on a 24-hour work to photocopy 36,000 vouchers related to the scam.

"We have a roomful of documents packed in 24 boxes. If we complete our job in three days, then we can have the arrest warrants issued by Friday," he said.

Plunder is a non-bailable capital offense.

The Sandiganbayan's 2nd division trying the plunder cases issued the order to the immigration bureau to stop the accused from fleeing.

Told that some of the accused DPWH officials may have already left the country, Villa-Ignacio said the government would work for their extradition.

He said prosecutors will be working with the foreign affairs department to find out which of the 30 accused have left the country.

The Office of the Ombudsman last week filed plunder charges against the 30 who were found to have allegedly made false transactions and claims for the bogus repair of 521 vehicles at the DPWH from March to December 2001.

Charged as principal respondent in the case was Maximo Borje Jr., former head of the DPWH motor pool section. He was found to have accumulated some P82,321,855.38 from "false claims and transactions."

Charged as "conspirators" were Burt B. Favorito, Florendo B. Arias, Erdito Quarto, Agerico Palaypay, Napoleon S. Anas, Danilo Planta, Luisito dela Rosa, Rogelio Beray, Norma Villarmino, Ricardo M. Juan, Nelson Umali and Maria Luisa T. Cruz.

The private respondents, mostly car parts suppliers, were Conchita de la Cruz, Janette Bugayong, Jesus Capuz, Rodellia Uy, Romeo Fullido, Victoria Go, Carmelito Edem, Augusto Capuz and Vicente Santos Jr.

Villa-Ignacio said the filing of plunder charges in connection with the vehicle repair scam was just the beginning.

Last week, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo ordered the suspension of Bureau of Internal Revenue assistant commissioner Edwin Abella for "amassing unexplained wealth."

Abella was one of more than 10 ranking officials of the DPWH, the Bureau of Customs and the BIR who were charged with graft for failing the government's lifestyle check program.

Judge fined for slow justice

By Delmar Carino
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Justice delayed is justice denied.

This was stressed by the Supreme Court on Monday when it castigated a municipal trial court judge in Tupi, South Cotabato, who was found guilty of undue delay in rendering a decision.

The high court fined Judge Gaydifredo Ocampo P11,000, and warned him that a repetition of the offense would be dealt with more severely.

In an eight-page decision penned by Associate Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, the SC said: "Judges should be imbued with a high sense of duty and responsibility in the discharge of their obligation to promptly administer justice."

The case stemmed from a complaint filed by Esterlina Acuzar on May 31, 2001, who charged Ocampo before the Office of the Chief Justice with "gross misconduct, bias and partiality."

Acuzar, a litigant in a civil case pending before Ocampo's sala, said Ocampo had sat on her case for collection of a sum of money against Rodrigo Cruz.

Ocampo denied the charges, saying the delay was due to the motions for postponement filed by both parties which he granted to avoid being accused of denying due process.

Later, Ocampo wrote the SC to say that he already decided the civil case in favor of Acuzar. Acuzar moved to withdraw her administrative complaint. But the SC disregarded the withdrawal and proceeded to resolve the complaint.

The Office of the Court Administrator, which investigated the charge, said Ocampo was guilty of undue delay.

It said that "a period of a little less than three years to dispose of a simple case of collection of money is indicative of inefficiency."

Jobless rate rises to 11%

THE JOBLESS rate in the Philippines rose 11.0 percent in January from 10.1 percent October, data released yesterday showed.

The unemployment rate was also up fr 10.6 percent in January 2003, but off a rec peak of 12.7 percent in July.

The Philippines is failing to create enou jobs for its rapidly growing population. So five to seven million Filipinos out of a popu tion of 80 million work abroad.

The government said there were 3.899 n lion unemployed people in January compa with 3.554 million in October and 3.559 n lion in January 2003.

The National Capital Region, which inclu Metro Manila, recorded the highest unempl ment rate at 16.9 percent, the statistics office s

The national employment rate dropped 89.0 percent in January from 89.4 percen the same month last year.

Agriculture accounted for 11.1 mill jobs, the industry sector employed five r lion while the services sector accounted 15.3 million. *Reut*

Baseless, says Saycon of raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

BASELESS and malicious.

This was how Council on Philippine Af (Copa) Secretary General Pastor "Boy" con and his co-accused in the "Kawal af described the inciting to sedition and flag ecration charges filed against them at the partment of Justice.

In their counter-affidavits, Saycon and hi accused—a Commander Larry Andes and K al members Army Captains Peter Navarro, R bert Baylosis and Philip Esmeralda—de they were planning to overthrow the gov ment and formally asked the DOJ to dismis charges. Another co-accused, Copa official Montelibano, did not file an affidavit.

The respondents finally submitted t counter-affidavits to the DOJ yesterday a month of delays.

The National Bureau of Investigation the charges against the six on Feb. 16, the press conference of Jan. 26, 2004 which the military officers as member "Kawal" (Soldier) aired their grieva against the government and displayed Philippine flags sewn together on whic name of their group had been written.

Saycon's lawyers also presented the davits of journalists Arnold Clavio of Channel 7 and Manuel Mogato of Reu who had covered the press conference. men said there was nothing clandestir seditious about the Jan. 26 press confere

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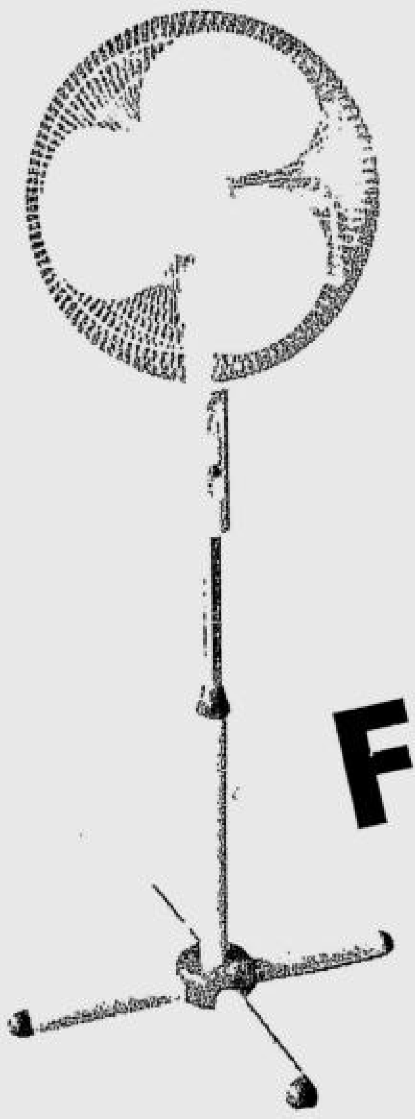

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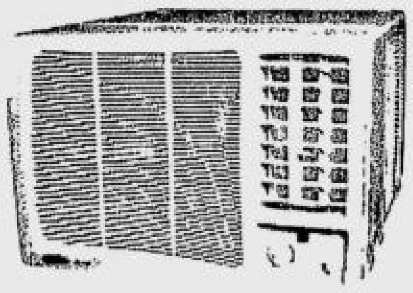

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PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0311, SERIES OF 2004

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Through this award, the Department of Health and Pfizer also want to inspire other Filipinos to follow the example of these health heroes by supporting their projects or undertaking similar initiatives to bring healthcare to those with little or no access to much-needed health facilities and services.

Reaffirmation of Pfizer's Commitment

The award is being launched to commemorate Pfizer's 50th anniversary of operations in the Philippines. Pfizer reaffirms its commitment towards helping make Filipinos healthier and their quality of life better as it has been doing since 1954.

Who may be nominated

Nominees must be Filipino citizens.

Heroic Quality

Above all, nominees for the award must have shown **heroic** qualities — devoting much of their time, effort and personal resources to their projects, giving up better income and physical comforts, and willing to risk even their very lives, if need be, for the fulfillment of their mission to make a difference in the health situation of the poor.

Nature of Projects

Project of the nominees:

- Must have been ongoing for at least three years.
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- Can be in the areas of, but not limited to, public and community healthcare, disease control and management, philanthropic or voluntary work, people empowerment, capacity-building, advocacy and education.

Prizes for the Awardees

Each of the five awardees will receive:

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    - * P250,000 for the project
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- Accommodations and round-trip transportation from home base to Manila for the awarding ceremonies

Mechanics

1. Any organization or individual can nominate a person working independently or with an organization.
2. Nomination forms are available at the Pfizer Corporate Affairs Office, DOH Centers for Health Development (CHDs) and Perceptions, Inc. These can also be downloaded from www.pfizer.com.ph and www.doh.gov.ph.
3. Deadline for submission of nominations is on **April 30, 2004.**
4. Nominations and inquiries can be addressed to:

    HEROES FOR HEALTH
    c/o Perceptions, Inc.
    3/F Fortune Office Bldg.
    160 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229
    Tel. Nos. 891-3396, 891-3485, 891-3556

    e-mail: heroesforhealth@pfizer.com
5. Zonal screenings of entries will be conducted in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. No more than thirty (30) entries chosen during the zonal screenings will be forwarded to Perceptions to qualify for the second screening in Manila.
6. Ten (10) finalists will be chosen from those who made it through the second screening. The submissions of the finalists will be validated via site visits and interviews with the nominee, his colleagues and the community where the project is being implemented.
7. Final judging will be done by a distinguished board of judges composed of health, business and civic leaders in both the government and private sectors.
8. Awarding ceremonies will be held in August, 2004.

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SC stops court martial of Oakwood mutineers

By Philip C. Tubeza and Alcuin Papa

THE SUPREME Court yesterday temporarily stopped court-martial proceedings against 290 officers and enlisted men accused of mounting a coup attempt from the Oakwood Premiere in July 27 last year.

In an en banc resolution issued from Baguio City, the high tribunal stopped the arraignment and pretrial of the soldiers before the general court martial, scheduled to resume yesterday, based on a petition from nine of the accused claiming that the military court had no jurisdiction over them.

The high court gave Armed Forces Chief Gen. Narciso Abaya and Judge Advocate General Brig. Gen. Mariano Sarmiento a "non-extendable period" of 10 days to comment on the soldiers' petition.

The number of soldiers to be court-martialed was yesterday reduced to 278, after the military decided to free a dozen junior officers from nearly eight months detention. The 12 pledged to testify against colleagues accused of mounting the failed coup.

The 12 had not actually taken part in the failed coup, but were initially charged in military court with failure to suppress the mutiny, prosecutors said.

Abaya approved the dismissal of the charges against them and released them from military custody "as they have amply shown innocence of the plot, and that they are willing to cooperate as witnesses in the prosecution of those involved," a court document showed.

In their petition filed with the SC on Monday, the nine soldiers, through their lawyer Rafael Pulido, said the military court had no jurisdiction over the soldiers since the Makati Regional Trial Court had ruled that the crimes that they were being charged with were not service-related.

Pulido cited a Feb. 11 order from Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel declaring that the charges against his clients were "not service-connected, but rather absorbed and in furtherance of the alleged crime of coup d'etat."

He said that, under the law, the soldiers can be court-martialed only after a civilian court has ruled that their crime was service-connected.

The petitioners were initially charged with coup d'etat, together with 312 other junior officers and enlisted men, before the Makati regional court.

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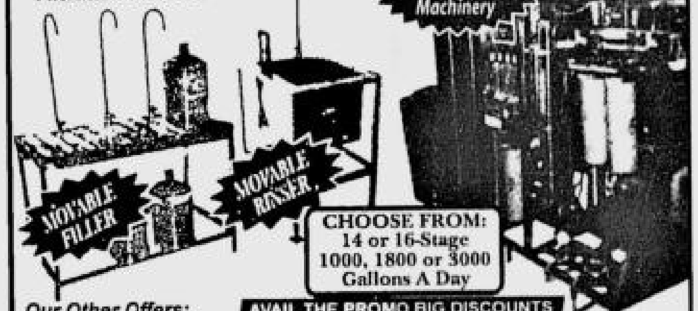

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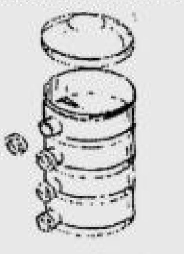

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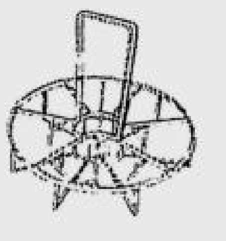

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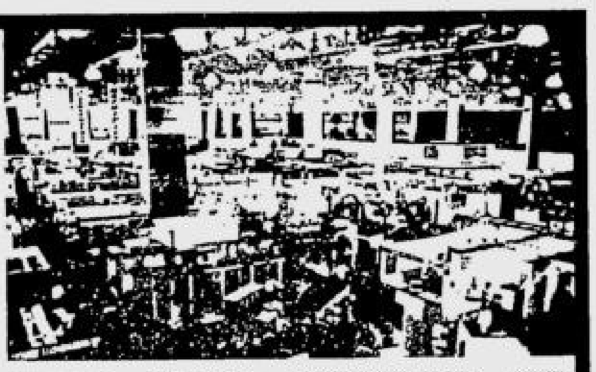

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DepEd declares public schools 'no-campaign' zones

POLITICIANS beware: stay out of schools.

The Department of Education has declared public elementary and high schools as "campaign-free zones."

It banned campaigning and placing campaign posters within school premises, including the outer walls, for the duration of the election.

It deputized teachers to take down any campaign material posted on school property.

In issuing Memo No. 107 dated March 3, Undersecretary Ramon Bacani said they want to "ensure all schools and teachers are protected from politicking."

He added they want to prevent situations "that could compromise our teachers' integrity."

Public school teachers would go on poll duty once more since elections automation did not push through.

Bacani told schools to prominently display the sign, "Clean Schools, Clean Elections."

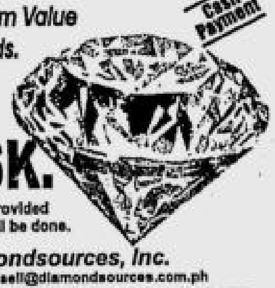
The sign should say "Comelec bans the posting of election materials on school property," and "Comelec authorizes this school to remove all election materials posted on all school property."

Under the memo, the DepEd said candidates and politicians cannot campaign within school premises.

They also cannot use the school premises or teachers for their political rallies.

The DepEd reiterated that campaign materials, including sample ballots, cannot be distributed within the school premises.

Public schools are usually used as voting places.



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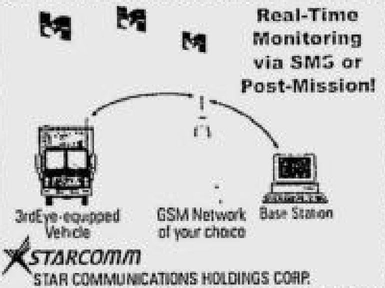
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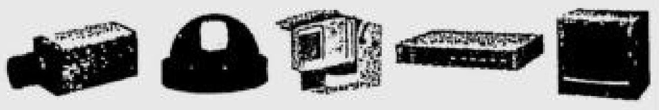

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PRESENT SYSTEM A FAILURE

In the last 25 years, the Philippines posted the lowest economic growth per person in all of Asia. In the last 20 years, the number of poor Filipinos tripled, from 10 million to 30 million today. In the last 10 years, the unemployment rate increased by half, from 8 percent to nearly 13 percent in 2003.

The present presidential system has failed to deliver basic services to the people and to reduce poverty.

WHAT TO DO THEN?

The presidential candidates should seriously consider amending the Constitution to give way to the parliamentary system thru a Constituent Assembly or a Constitutional Convention in the first 100 days of the newly elected President. The elected President should agree to become a transition president for three years to enable the shift to the parliamentary system patterned after the French model where the President is elected directly by the people but serves only a symbolic function.

It is the members of the Parliament (MPs) who vote for the Prime Minister. The PM, in turn, gets his cabinet members from among the MPs.

To demonstrate their faith in the Filipino people, the presidential candidates should now sign a covenant saying that they agree to be a transition president, if elected, and allow for the shift to the parliamentary system.

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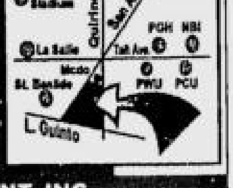

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'Madrid can happen anywhere in the world'

From page A1

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JOAN BONDOC

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Manila another Madrid?

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"I don't want to speculate but we're trying our best to negate it," he told reporters.

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"I leave it to you, as experts in the field of crime and terror, to judge whether our country is indeed unsafe and unfit for foreign investors," she said.

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"I hope you do this as you frolic in our beaches, talk to our people, and enjoy the sunshine of their smiles."

Saying the Philippines was not "a lair of terrorists," the President pointed out that authorities had substantially crippled the Abu Sayyaf, cutting their numbers from 1,200 in 2002 to only a few hundreds now on the run in the jungles of Mindanao.

Fighting crime

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US aid

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"Under my leadership, foreign policy has become an instrument of peace, a tool for constructive engagement with known enemies of the state." *With AP and AFP*

Filipino terror suspect denied bail in Belfast

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"The case against Ofrasio appears to be very strong after having been the subject of surveillance for two years," said Jose Brillantes, foreign affairs undersecretary in charge of migrant workers.

Brillantes said Ofrasio's mobile phone number was found in the address book of an alleged Jemaah Islamiyah member who was arrested last year in Malaysia. He did not identify the man.

He said the foreign office will extend legal assistance to Ofrasio. *AP*

Poe camp boasts of free access to NPA areas

From page A1

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Echeverria, a Marcos loyalist who joined a coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino in the late 1980s, retired as head of the military's unified command in Southern Mindanao. He now helps in arranging security for Poe and the KNP ticket in their campaign sorties in Mindanao.

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Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines, earlier said that no candidate would be exempted from paying the PTC fees. Three mayoral candidates were assassinated after they refused to bow to extortion demands by communist rebels.

Joma's support

In the same KNP statement, senatorial candidate Juan Ponce Enrile claimed that CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison and Rosal had issued statements expressing their support for Poe's candidacy.

"The NPA is for the masses and Poe's campaign is anchored on the uplift of the masses," said Enrile, who served as defense secretary during the Marcos regime and the Aquino administration.

"It is no surprise at all that the NPA would go for Poe," he added.

Sison, who is based in the Netherlands, personally endorsed Poe's running mate Sen. Loren Legarda earlier this year.

"I believe that if (Legarda) became the vice president, (she) would be in a better position to take initiatives in pushing the peace negotiations forward to the goal of a just and lasting peace," the CPP founder said in a statement.

Poe has promised "to immediately reach out to all groups that had taken up arms against the government" and end all insurgencies if he won in the May 10 presidential election.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is neck-and-neck with Poe in the latest opinion polls, resumed peace talks with Sison and his group last month. She demanded that communist rebels stop their extortion activities against politicians and businessmen, but her plea fell on deaf ears.

In the KNP statement, senatorial candidate Salvador Escudero III said the NPA collection of PTC fees was an "institution" in Bicol where he hails from.

According to Escudero, he had not heard of the NPA suspending its collection of PTC fees but neither had he heard any of KNP campaigners being harassed in rebel areas.

"But I know for a fact that local candidates allied with the administration's Lakas party have already paid PTC fees to the NPA," he said. *With a report from AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, March 17, 2004
3rd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Dt 4:1, 5-9
Gospel: Mt 5:17-19

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not think that I have come to remove the Law and the Prophets. I have not come to remove but to fulfill them. I tell you this: as long as heaven and earth last, not the smallest letter or stroke of the Law will change until all is fulfilled.

"So then, whoever breaks the least important of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be the least in the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys them and teaches others to do the same will be great in the kingdom of heaven."

Commentary

"Not the smallest letter or stroke of the Law will change until all is fulfilled," said Jesus. But he himself often broke the Law—certainly as it was interpreted by his contemporaries.

When is a law perfectly fulfilled? When it is observed to the letter? Hardly. The Scribes and Pharisees adhered to the letter of the Law, yet Jesus accused them of "setting aside the commands of God and clinging to human traditions" (Mk 7:8). A law is being fulfilled, surely, when the purpose for which it was made is being fulfilled. A law is a means to an end; but if the end is being subverted by the law, then it is no longer a law. This is the revolutionary teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas. Law, he said, is an act of reason (ordering a means to an end), not an act of will. Law is not the grip of someone's power over you, but guidance for your mind. It subverts neither your mind nor your will, but guides you along a path. It does not take away your freedom, but supports, enlightens and defends it. This is how there can be such a thing as the law of God. There is no real opposition between law and love.

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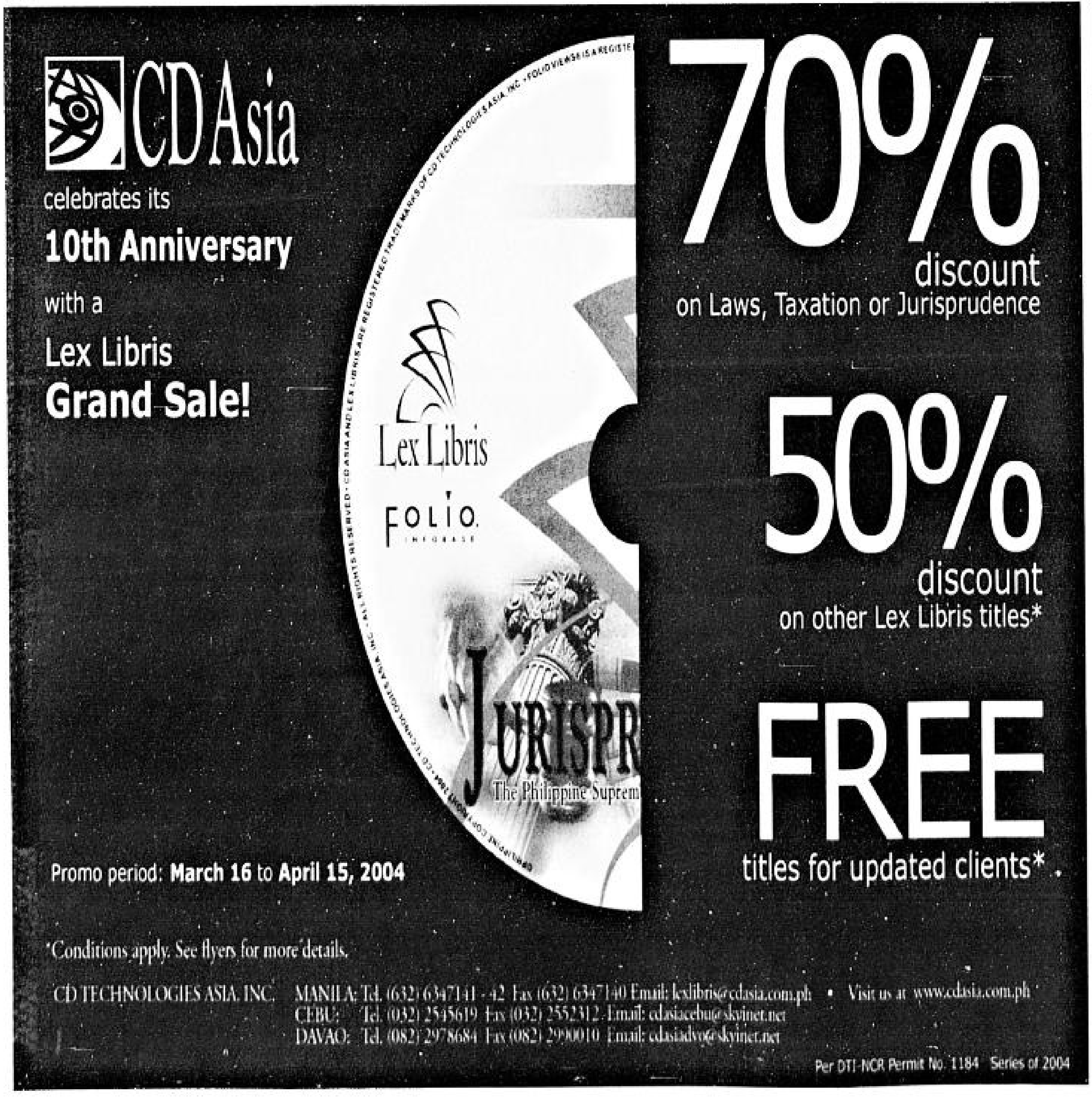

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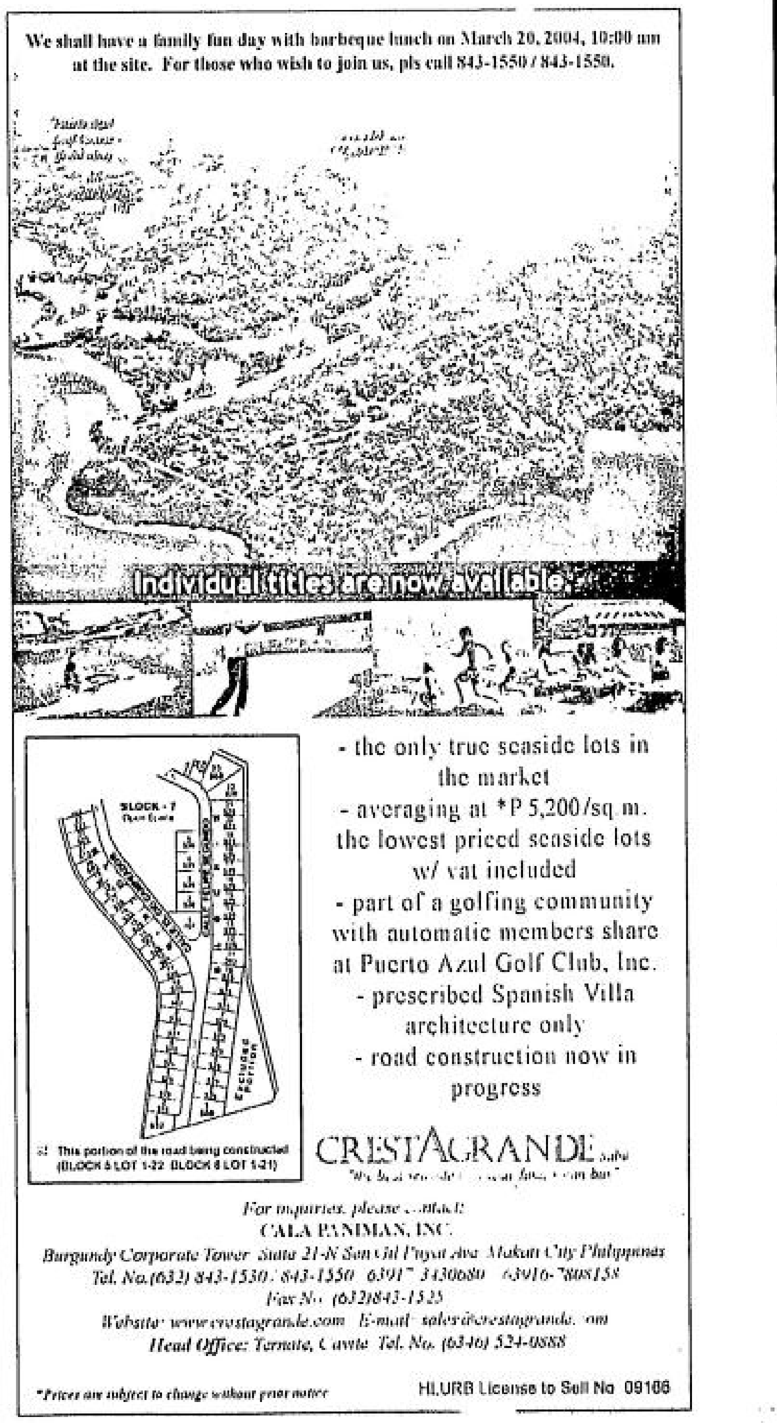

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'Madrid can happen anywhere in the world'

From page A1

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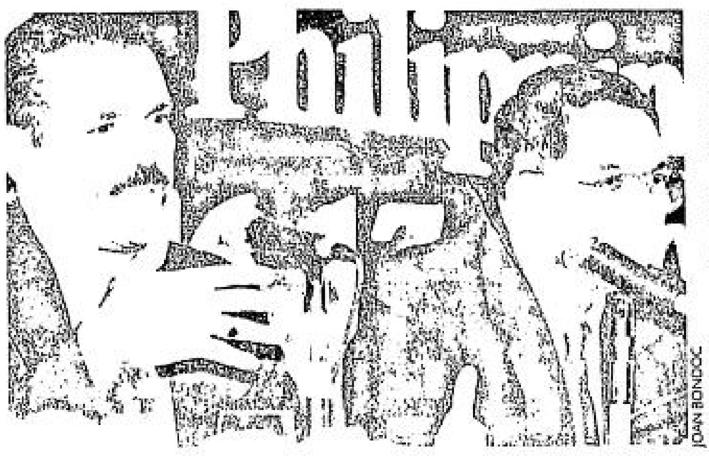

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"It is no surprise at all that the NPA would go for Poe," he added.

Sison, who is based in the Netherlands, personally endorsed Poe's running mate Sen. Loren Legarda earlier this year.

"I believe that if (Legarda) became the vice president, (she) would be in a better position to take initiatives in pushing the peace negotiations forward to the goal of a just and lasting peace," the CPP founder said in a statement.

Poe has promised "to immediately reach out to all groups that had taken up arms against the government" and end all insurgencies if he won in the May 10 presidential election.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is neck-and-neck with Poe in the latest opinion polls, resumed peace talks with Sison and his group last month. She demanded that communist rebels stop their extortion activities against politicians and businessmen, but her plea fell on deaf ears.

In the KNP statement, senatorial candidate Salvador Escudero III said the NPA collection of PTC fees was an "institution" in Bicol where he hails from.

According to Escudero, he had not heard of the NPA suspending its collection of PTC fees but neither had he heard any of KNP campaigners being harassed in rebel areas.

"But I know for a fact that local candidates allied with the administration's Lakas party have already paid PTC fees to the NPA," he said. *With a report from AFP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, March 17, 2004
3rd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Dt 4:1, 5-9
Gospel: Mt 5:17-19

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not think that I have come to remove the Law and the Prophets. I have not come to remove but to fulfill them. I tell you this: as long as heaven and earth last, not the smallest letter or stroke of the Law will change until all is fulfilled.

"So then, whoever breaks the least important of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be the least in the kingdom of heaven. On the other hand, whoever obeys them and teaches others to do the same will be great in the kingdom of heaven."

Commentary

"Not the smallest letter or stroke of the Law will change until all is fulfilled," said Jesus. But he himself often broke the Law—certainly as it was interpreted by his contemporaries.

When is a law perfectly fulfilled? When it [illegible] the letter? Hardly. The Scribes and Pharisees adhered to the letter of the Law, yet Jesus accused them of "setting aside the commands of God and clinging to human traditions" (Mk 7:8). A law is being fulfilled, surely, when the purpose for which it was made is being fulfilled. A law is a means to an end; but if the end is being subverted by the law, then it is no longer a law. This is the revolutionary teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas. Law, he said, is an act of reason (ordering a means to an end), not an act of will. Law is not the grip of someone's power over you, but guidance for your mind. It subverts neither your mind nor your will, but guides you along a path. It does not take away your freedom, but supports, enlightens and defends it. This is how there can be such a thing as the law of God. There is no real opposition between law and love.

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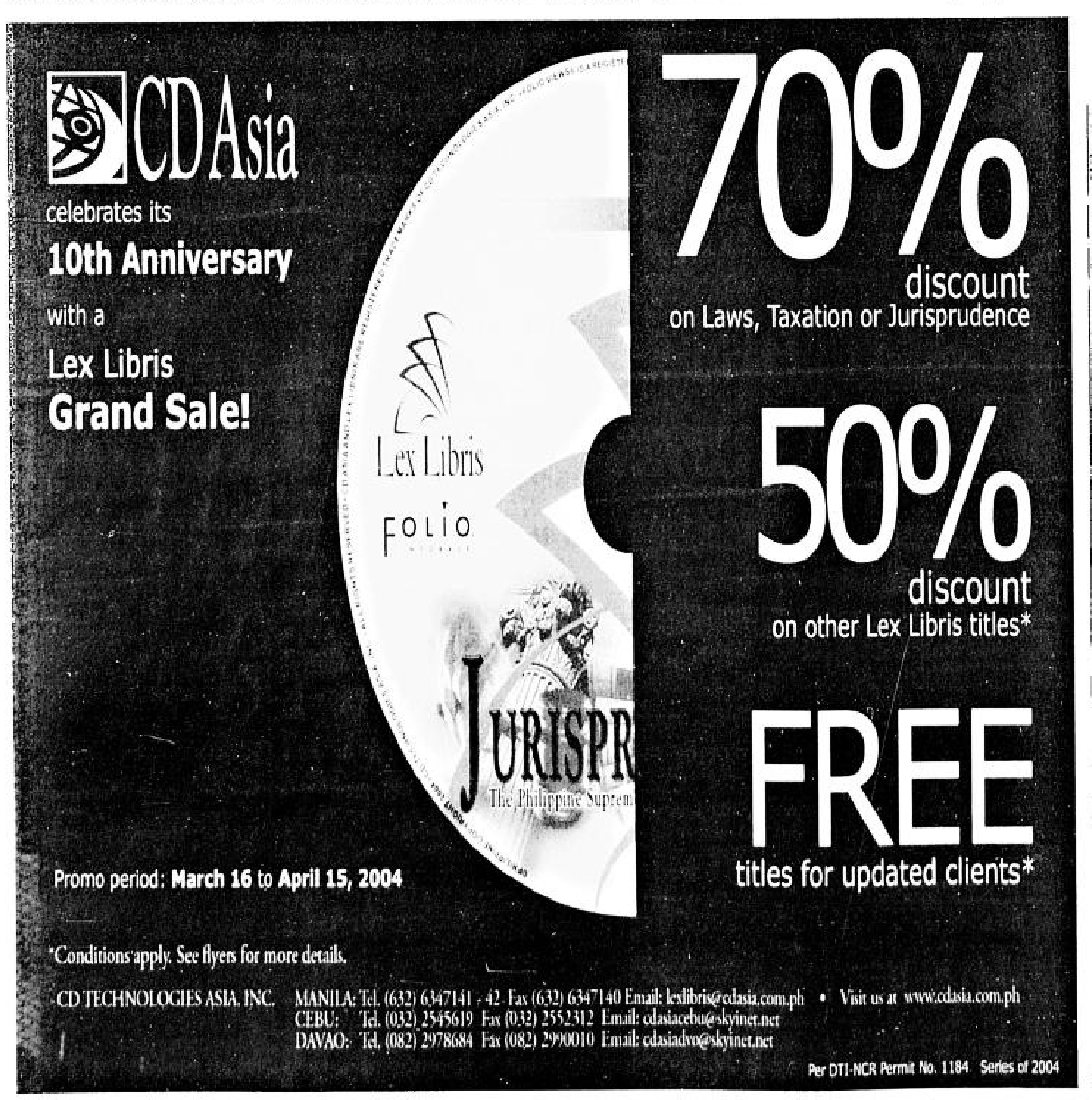
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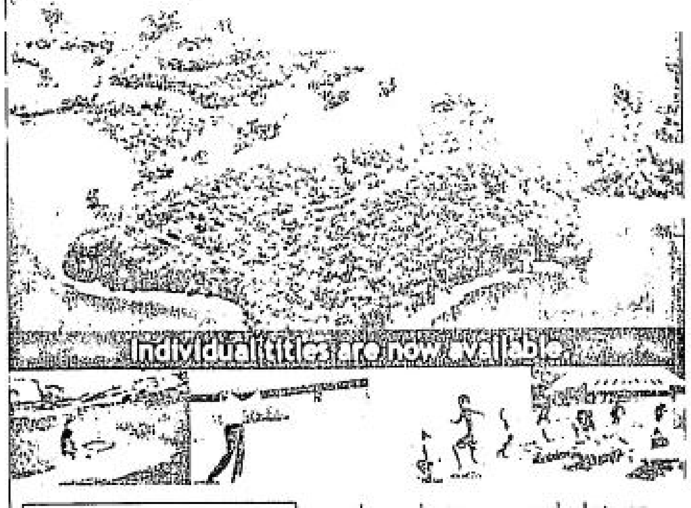
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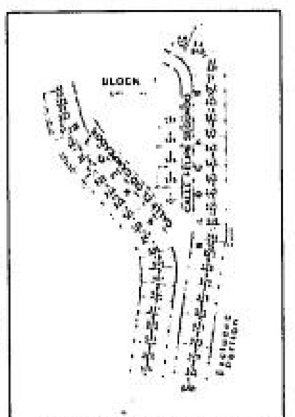
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GMA names kin to LRTA

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday appointed former Nueva Ecija Rep. Pacifico Fajardo as new administrator of the Light Rail Transit Authority.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Fajardo's appointment had nothing to do with his being a "distant relative" of the President.

Bunye said Fajardo was "very qualified" for the job, having served three consecutive terms as a congressman.

"And his record in Congress was OK," Bunye said.

The President signed Fajardo's appointment papers on March 1 and these were transmitted by Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza on March 5.

Fajardo replaced LRTA Administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr.

Recruiters vs Tesda

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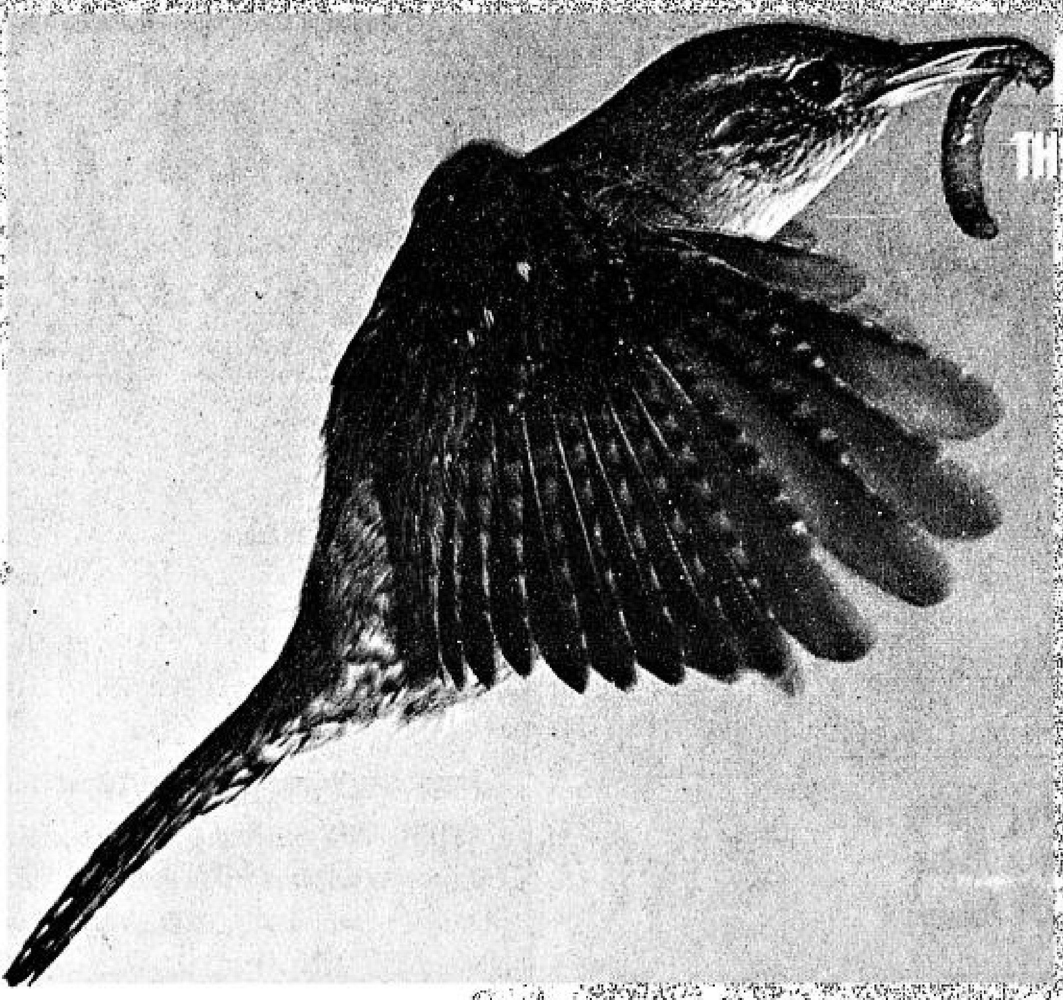

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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

6 Moroccans in Madrid blasts identified

MADRID—Spanish police believe they have identified six Moroccan Islamic militants who carried out train blasts which killed 200 people in Madrid and helped usher the opposition Socialists into power, media reported on Tuesday.

Spanish newspapers and radio reported that police believe one of the Moroccans, who is already under arrest, may have had links to last May's bombings in Casablanca which killed 45 people, including 12 suicide bombers.

Citing security sources, the papers said the suspect, Jamal Zougam, had been identified by two survivors of the rush-hour train blast who said they saw him before the explosions.

An interior ministry spokesperson was not immediately available for comment. Moroccan officials have previously challenged theories of any direct link between the Casablanca bombing and Spain's worst ever guerrilla attack.

Thursday's bombing, which authorities initially blamed on armed Basque separatists ETA, sparked widespread anger at Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's support for the US-led Iraq war.

Following his shock win, Spain's new prime minister-elect, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, said on Monday he would probably pull Madrid's troops out of a "disastrous" occupation of Iraq unless the United Nations takes charge there by mid-year.

The suspicions of many Spaniards that the ruling center-right Popular Party was not revealing all it knew about the bombings, which also wounded 1,500 people, helped sweep the government out of office.

Aznar's government backed down on Monday in its assertion that only ETA was responsible for the train bombings, telling the United Nations it was investigating foreign nationals.

Despite misgivings, the 15-member UN Security Council had adopted an unusual resolution hours after the attack identifying ETA as the perpetrator.

Noting the growing signs that Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida was involved, some analysts said it could be an alarming first case of Islamist militants influencing, by violence, the outcome of a major Western election.

Zapatero denied at a news conference on Monday that his success was a "victory for terrorism," saying: "In Spain, there was a desire for change."

Some 12 billion euros ($14.74 billion) was wiped off the value of Spain's leading companies on Monday as the stock market slumped over the suspicions of al Qaida's involvement in the attacks and uncertainties over the Socialists' economic agenda.

Interviewed on a Spanish radio station, Zapatero said the Iraq war had been a disaster and must have consequences. "There has been one already—the election result. The second will be that the Spanish troops will come back," he said.

A US official, who asked not to be named, said Washington could push for a new UN resolution before it hands back sovereignty to Iraqis by the end of June, to encourage allies such as Spain to keep their troops in Iraq. *Reuters*

Australia fears it could be the next on terror hit list after Spain

SYDNEY—With suspicions that al-Qaida carried out last week's Madrid bombings to turn the tide of Spain's election and force it to withdraw troops from Iraq, some are now asking if Australia, a forthright US ally, will be hit soon.

Australia—which goes to the polls later this year—has, like Spain, been a staunch supporter of Washington's war on terror. Both loyally deployed troops to Iraq and US President George W. Bush has even described Prime Minister John Howard as his "sheriff" in Asia.

In Sydney on Tuesday a visiting FBI counterterrorism expert warned that an attack on Australia was "inevitable" because of its close ties to Washington.

Howard and his conservative government acknowledge the terror menace is ever present, but deny that it is any worse since it sent 2,000 troops to the Iraq war last year.

"Iraq isn't an issue that has driven al-Qaida," Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said in a television interview Tuesday. "They've been driven by fundamentalism. They're against us... because of what we stand for, not because of any specific issue."

Even so, Howard has also ordered a top priority review of the vulnerability of Australia's sprawling transport network—from crowded Sydney trains and ferries to remote Outback air strips and ports where security is virtually nonexistent.

Spain's pro-Washington leader Jose Maria Aznar was ousted by voters just days after the train bombings that killed 200 people and wounded 1,500.

Incoming socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero says he's ready to pull Spanish troops out of Iraq.

Like him, Australia's opposition Labor Party—currently leading Howard's government in opinion polls—was against the Iraq conflict and Howard's decision to join the US-led invasion.

About 850 Australian military personnel remain in Iraq. And, Howard has declined to intervene in the cases of two Australian citizens being held by US military at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba on suspicion of having al-Qaida links.

Howard's opponents see clear parallels between what happened in Spain last week and what could happen in Australia. Even so, his faith in Washington is unlikely to waver anytime soon.

Howard was a child during World War II when US forces in the Pacific saved Australia from a Japanese invasion.

He firmly believes that Australia's military alliance with Washington signed after the war remains key to his country's national security.

Australians have fought alongside American forces in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. But now the threat of terror looms closer to home.

The turning point came in neighboring Indonesia—the world's most populous Muslim nation—on Oct. 12, 2002 when al-Qaida-linked Islamic extremists bombed two bars on the vacation island of Bali. *AP*

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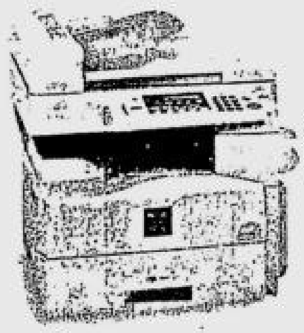

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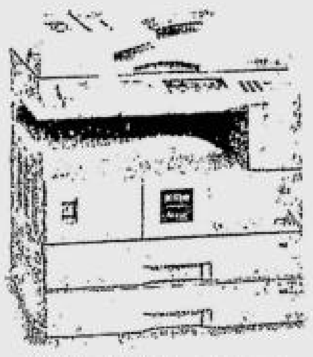

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Remy Ignacio-Rikken
former Exec. Dir.of the National Commission on the Role of the Filipino Women

Atty. Alice Canonoy-Morada
human rights lawyer handling cases on violence against women

Yasmin Busran-Lao
Muslim woman advocate for peace and development in Mindanao

La Rainne Abad-Sarmiento
Former Barangay Captain and expert on local governance

Kala Pulido-Constantino
Exec. Dir. of Kalakasan NGO doing work on violence against women and women's health issues.

ABANSE! Pinay Officers:

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Vice-President: Celia Flor
Secretary-General: Erlin de Ungria-Tagle
Treasurer: Joy Uy-tioco
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Abanse! Pinay Representative in the 11th and 12th Congress: Rep. Patricia M. Sarenas

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No. 2 Lapu-Lapu Avenue,
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Al-Qaida leader killed in Saudi shootout

RIYADH—Saudi security forces killed two militants, including one considered al-Qaida's chief of operations on the Arabian Peninsula, in a shootout in the capital, US and Saudi officials said.

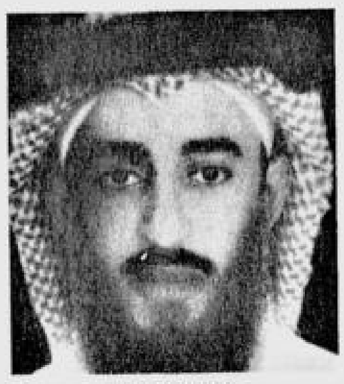
The two were killed in eastern Riyadh in an exchange of fire with security forces on Monday afternoon, a Saudi interior ministry statement said.

Abu Hazim al-Sha'ir, a Yemeni believed to be about 30, was the senior al-Qaida figure in the region, a US counterterrorism official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said his death represented a "major, very significant blow" to al-Qaida.

"This guy was involved in ongoing terrorist planning and plotting," the official added.

The Saudi interior ministry identified the dead as Khaled Ali Haj, a Yemeni, and Ibrahim bin Abdul-Aziz bin Mohammed al-Mezeini, a Saudi. According to the US counterterrorism official, Haj is another named used by Abu Hazim.

Haj ranked third on the government's list of Saudi Arabia's 26 most wanted militants. The other dead militant's name was not on the list.


KHALED ALI BIN HAJ AFP

The suspects were riding in a vehicle and refused to stop for a spot identification check by members of the security forces, the Saudi statement said. The suspects began shooting at the security forces, who returned fire, killing the two, the statement said.

Six hand grenades, two AK-47 assault rifles, three 9mm pistols and 516,000 Saudi riyals ($137,000) in cash were found in the vehicle, the statement said. The security forces took no casualties, it added.

Abu Hazim is believed to have trained in al-Qaida's Afghan camps in 1999 and later to have served as Osama bin Laden's bodyguard. Before the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, he traveled frequently to the Arabian peninsula, Southeast Asia and Afghanistan. *AP*

Aristide arrives in Jamaica; US irked

PORT-AU-PRINCE—Haiti's new US-backed leader angrily pulled his ambassador from Jamaica for hosting ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, whose return to the Caribbean threatened more violent protests to demand his return to the traumatized country.

A gunman presumed to be a militant Aristide supporter shot and wounded a US Marine. The first peacekeeper casualty since Aristide fled Haiti two weeks ago was seen as revenge for the killings of two Haitians by Marines—under fire—that some Haitians accused of being trigger-happy.

At least three people accused of destabilizing Haiti were arrested among a dozen in a police crackdown that appeared to target Aristide partisans.

Aristide, who has accused the United States of abducting him and forcing his departure from Haiti Feb. 29, made no political comment when he arrived Monday in Kingston, apparently bowing to Jamaica's demand that he not use the neighboring island to pursue his campaign to return to Haiti.

Aristide and his wife, Mildred, were whisked away on a helicopter to what officials said was a rural prime ministerial residence.

But Aristide indicated when he left the Central African Republic, another coup- and poverty-ridden country, that he had not abandoned his ambitions.

"For the time being, I'm listening to my people," he said.

That would be the roar of distress expressed most eloquently by Port-au-Prince slum dwellers threatening new protests to demand his return as Haiti's democratically elected president, and who see the US-led multinational force as a foreign occupation Army.

Interim Prime Minister Latortue suspended diplomatic relations with Jamaica and Haiti's membership of the 15-member Caribbean economic bloc.

Under the chairmanship of Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, the Caribbean Community has called for an investigation into Aristide's claim that the United States forced an elected president from power. US officials say they acted at Aristide's request and probably saved his life as rebels prepared to attack the Haitian capital.

US state department spokesperson Adam Ereli said Aristide's looming presence "does not serve a useful purpose. But he's here. He's on a private visit. And he's here temporarily as a former president of Haiti."

Aristide arrived Monday with his wife, Mildred. Jamaican officials said they were allowing the Aristides a respite to reunite with their two daughters at a rural government retreat for up to 10 weeks while they decide on a permanent home in exile. Unofficially, Jamaican officials say Aristide wants to go to South Africa.

"There are people trying to destabilize the country. It may be ex-President Aristide himself who is contributing by giving money and advice," Latortue suggested. *AP*

Bird flu fight over, China declares

BEIJING—China declared early victory over deadly bird flu on Tuesday, saying it had stamped out the disease in all 49 hotbeds, but gave a warning it could spread again as the weather warms up and water fowl migrate north.

Avian influenza spread across much of Asia in recent months, killing at least 15 people in Vietnam, seven in Thailand and sparking fears that the region was in for a crisis on the scale of SARS.

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which emerged in southern China in late 2002, infected about 8,000 people worldwide, killing 800 and devastating tourism and services industries. Some 300 people died in China.

But China has not recorded any human cases of bird flu and said it had no new reports among poultry for 29 days.

"The country has stamped out all 49 of the initially confirmed cases of deadly bird flu disease," agriculture ministry spokesperson Jia Youling told a news conference.

"This symbolizes that we have achieved initial results in our campaign against the deadly bird flu virus."

But he noted that there was still a risk of new outbreaks, perhaps caused by water fowl that carry the virus or by migratory birds flying north during China's spring thaw.

Other potential risks included spread of the virus from other countries or by long-distance transport of poultry, Jia said.

Asked if China had covered up the bird flu epidemic, Jia said the agriculture ministry had handled the epidemic reporting system very carefully.

China initially covered up the SARS outbreak, but reports of growing patient numbers that were leaked to the media, in part by hospital workers, led the government to come clean and sack the health minister and Beijing mayor. *Reuters*

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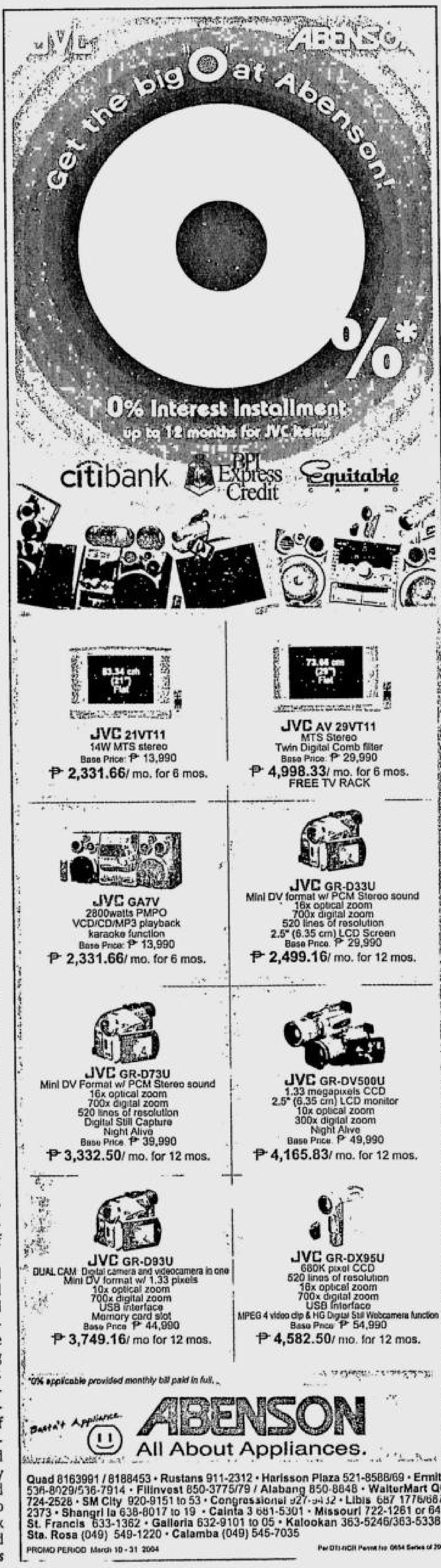

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Pioneering the Future

Ayala

To see the future clearly, look for it in the past.

This year, as Ayala Corporation celebrates its 170th year, it recalls the milestones that forged the company's spirit, in the course of its becoming.

Its story begins on a windy afternoon in March, 1834. As the ink dries on the signatures of two gentlemen in waistcoats, they somberly clasp one another's shoulders. Domingo Roxas takes a deep breath, his face finally relaxing into a smile. Antonio de Ayala clears his throat and murmurs a toast. Clinking wine glasses, they mark the birth of an enterprise. Casa Roxas has just been set up to engage in agriculture, manufacturing, trading and mining.

They are among the first to catch the scent of commerce in the tradewinds that sweep through 19th century Philippines. Theirs are the eyes that look at possibilities; theirs the willingness to make it happen.

The decades that follow will see a distillery rise, haciendas acquired, crops harvested... but in the midst of brisk growth, also a brewing protest. There is incarceration... then death, in Fort Santiago.

The company expands. A wedding is celebrated; renewed vigor begets a glass plant, a bank, Manila's first streetcars, and the sweet taste of international recognition.

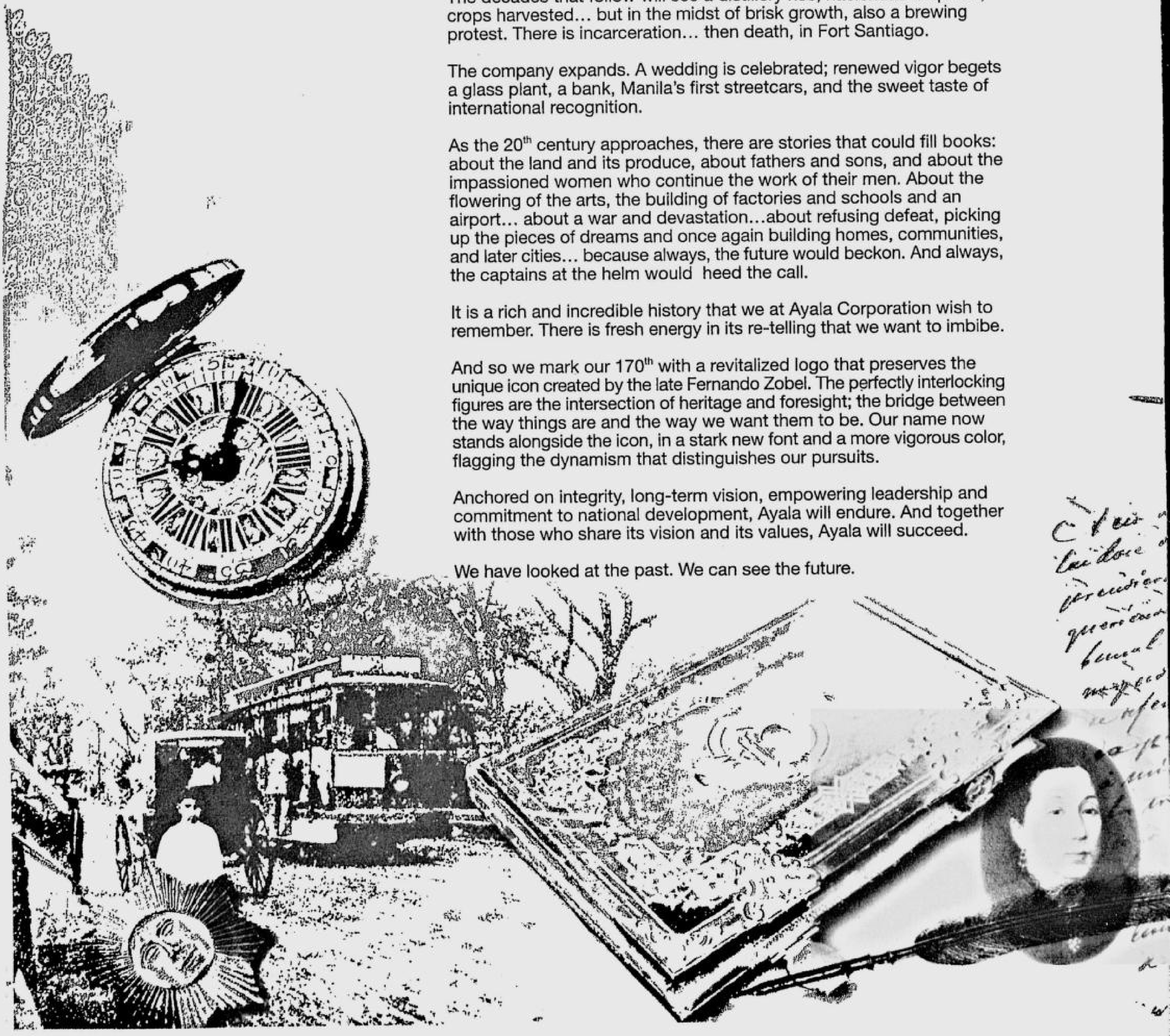
As the 20th century approaches, there are stories that could fill books: about the land and its produce, about fathers and sons, and about the impassioned women who continue the work of their men. About the flowering of the arts, the building of factories and schools and an airport... about a war and devastation...about refusing defeat, picking up the pieces of dreams and once again building homes, communities, and later cities... because always, the future would beckon. And always, the captains at the helm would heed the call.

It is a rich and incredible history that we at Ayala Corporation wish to remember. There is fresh energy in its re-telling that we want to imbibe.

And so we mark our 170th with a revitalized logo that preserves the unique icon created by the late Fernando Zobel. The perfectly interlocking figures are the intersection of heritage and foresight; the bridge between the way things are and the way we want them to be. Our name now stands alongside the icon, in a stark new font and a more vigorous color, flagging the dynamism that distinguishes our pursuits.

Anchored on integrity, long-term vision, empowering leadership and commitment to national development, Ayala will endure. And together with those who share its vision and its values, Ayala will succeed.

We have looked at the past. We can see the future.



Ayala Corporation has survived and prospered over the past 170 years because it lives and breathes the indomitable spirit of the Filipino. Our year-long celebration will pay tribute to the creativity, the passion, and the courage of our people.

170th Anniversary Calendar of Events: A fusion of arts and culture, entertainment, and social development projects.

March
Filipino Togetherness and Spirituality
A Thanksgiving Mass

Filipino Work Values
Internal Corporate Launch

Filipino Family and Community Values
Ayala Fundaytion Day

The Filipino as Artist
Impy Pilapil's "Benevolent Force"
at the Greenbelt Sculpture Park

The Filipino as Man for Others
Launch of *Integrated Kalahi*, in partnership with
Habitat for Humanity

Water for Filipinos
Manila Water Company's *Tubig Para Sa Barangay* projects

World-Class Filipino
Philippine School of Interior Design Exhibit

***Hindi Kita Malimot:* The Filipino as Romantic**
AFI Funders' Night concert featuring Cecile Licad,
the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, Eugene Castillo
and Ryan Cayabyab

The Filipino as Visionary
Annual Stockholders' Meeting

April
The Filipino in Motion
Ayala Group Sportsfest - Manila
Ayala Business Club Sportsfest - Davao Chapter

The Filipino as Artisan
Master painters teach at Greenbelt's *Summer Camp*

May
The Filipino Mom
Mothers' Day Workshop at Honda Pasig, Shaw, and Alabang

The Filipino as Civic-Minded Volunteer
Integrated Microelectronics employees as
NAMFREL volunteers

The Filipino as World-Class Retailers
Local retailers' shows in Glorietta 4

June
The Filipino Dad
Fathers' Day at Honda Makati, Pasig, Alabang and Shaw

The Filipino—Creator of Beauty
Fashion Designers Council of the Philippines presents
the Mindanao Silk Exhibit

The Filipino as Environmentalist
Inauguration of the U.P. Sewerage Treatment Plant

The Filipino Artists—
Re-collecting Our Past and Re-presenting Our Future
Opening of the New Ayala Museum

July
Helping the Filipino Child Read
Book Drive for Corporate Social Responsibility Week

Filipino Philanthropy
Ayala Foundation joins the League of Corporate
Foundations' Exhibit

August
The Filipino: *Noon at Ngayon*
Architecture Photo Exhibit at the Filipinas Heritage Library

Celebrating Philippine Heritage
BPI Anniversary Presentation

Filipino Unsung Heroes
Fellowship with Ayala's Service Providers

The Filipino at Work and at Play
Ayala Employees' Exhibit

September
The Filipino, Looking Back
Makati Memories at the Filipinas Heritage Library

October
The Filipino as Master Builder
Renowned Filipino Architects' Exhibit

The Filipino on Naturework
Art and Nature @ the Park, featuring Greenbelt as subject

The Filipino Storyteller
Mga Kwento ni Lola Basyang at the
Filipinas Heritage Library

The Filipino Talent on Stage
Repertory Globe's Musical Revue

November
The Filipino Child
Children's Hour Special Anniversary Initiative

The Filipino as Global Citizen
170 Youth Tech Schools Celebration

December
The Filipino in Celebration
Ayala Corporation's annual Christmas Party

The Filipino as Dedicated Worker
Ayala Corporation Employee Service Awards

2005
February
The Future Filipino Leader
Ayala Young Leaders Congress

April
Celebrating the Filipino
A report to Stockholders

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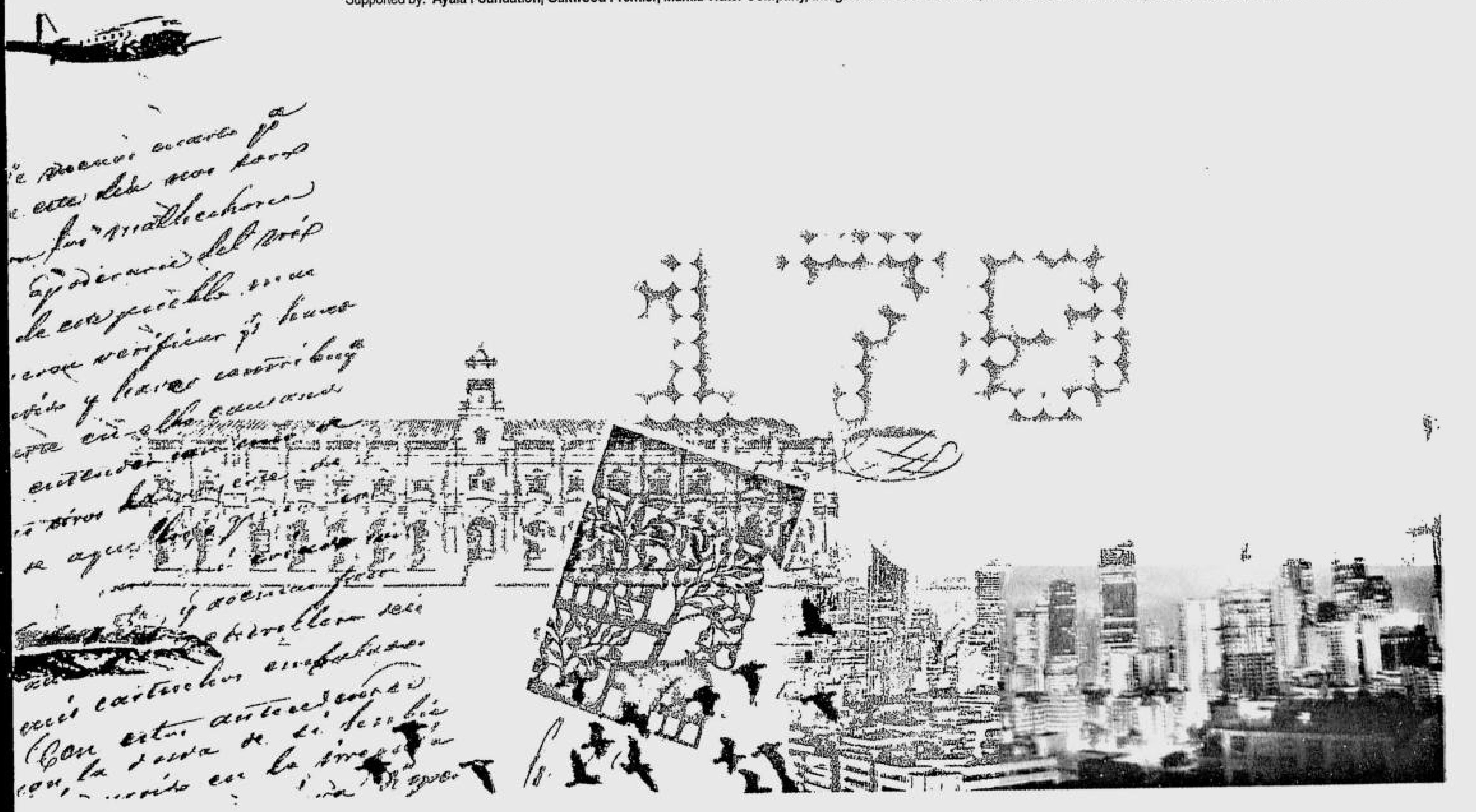

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Appeasers?

EDITORIAL

THE SPANISH people went to the polls, and their verdict stunned the world. The Popular Party, which had governed Spain for eight years, and led it to unprecedented levels of prosperity, lost 35 seats in the Spanish Cortes, or parliament. Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar had expected to crown his retirement with the successful handover of power to his anointed successor. Instead, Aznar was booed in the streets on the eve of elections, his government has gone down in defeat, and the opposition Socialist Party has been swept into office.

The incoming prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, faced with an unexpected victory, has backpedaled somewhat. Before the elections, facing an expected defeat, he spoke forcefully against Spain's participation in the American-led "coalition of the willing" that supported the invasion of Iraq and its occupation. Now he speaks of withdrawal from Iraq by June 30, the date power is to be handed over to Iraqi control, if the situation hasn't improved. What remains to be seen is if this deadline will hold, or whether a withdrawal will take place earlier on. What is clear is that Spain has broken ranks with America, United Kingdom, Japan and their other allies, and joined what the Americans sneer is the Berlin-Rome Axis, referring to the Axis Powers, as the fascist alliance was known during World War II.

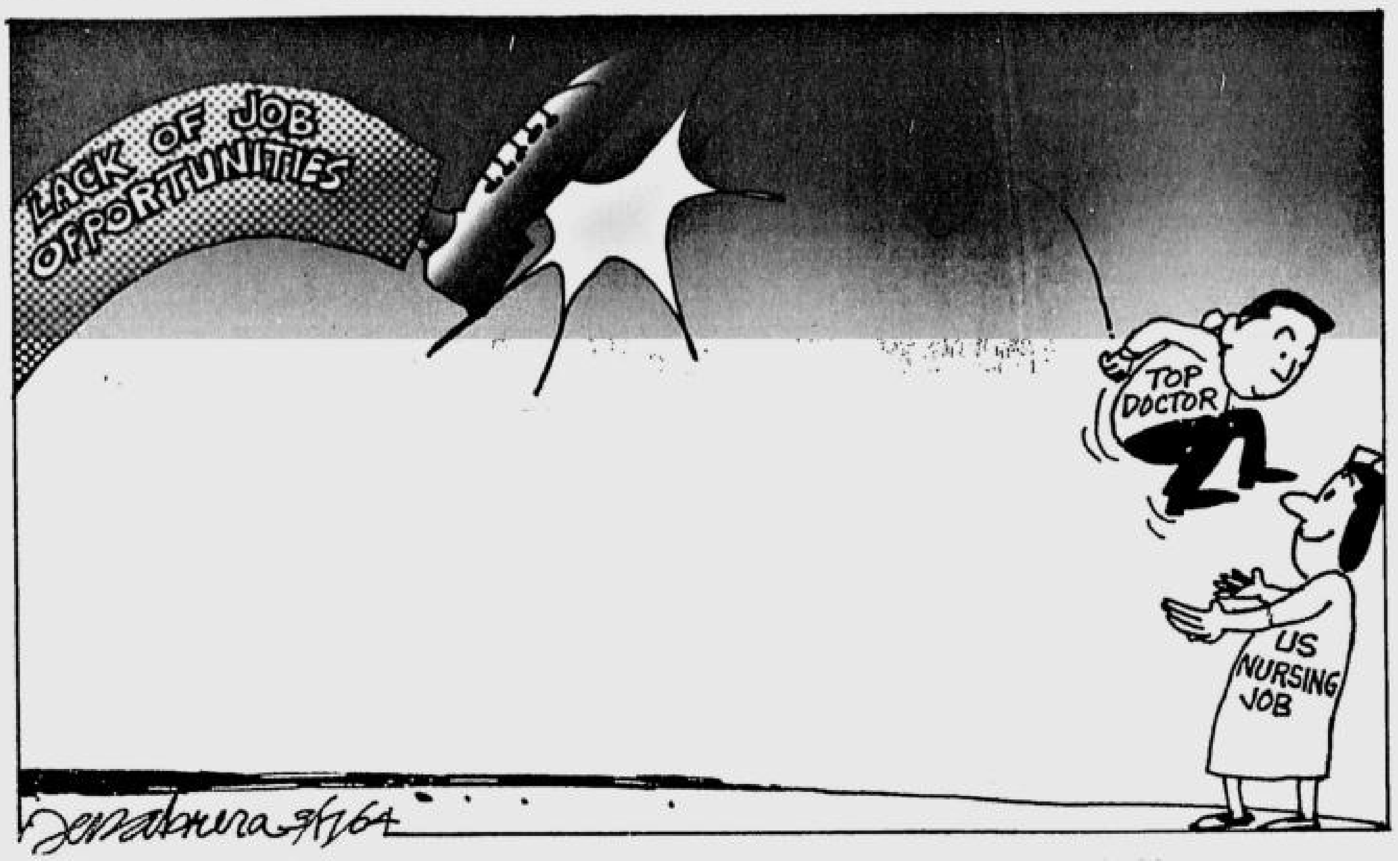
In the face of the Spanish version of shock and awe, the United States and the United Kingdom are resorting to further dredging up memories of "the last good war," World War II, in calling the Spanish people "appeasers," referring to the policy invoked by politicians to try to control Adolf Hitler. A policy vehemently rejected by Winston Churchill—and a policy the current British prime minister, Tony Blair, has tried to invoke in justifying his own unpopular stand on Iraq.

The Spanish people cannot be accused of appeasement, just as they cannot be accused of caving in to terrorism. Spain has had its share of terrorist attacks. Both conservative and socialist governments have fought terrorism with equal vigor; the Spanish people have regularly, and resolutely, marched in the streets to denounce each and every incident of terrorism: the massive protest over the weekend was only the largest such outpouring of indignation. But it was not the first. The cost in lives and misery inflicted by terrorism has even been recognized by Spain's beloved monarch, Juan Carlos, who has instituted a national order conferred on the victims of terrorist attacks.

What the Spanish people rejected at the polls was a government that a majority of voters felt had betrayed them. The very nature of the majority, composed of many first time voters, and the very nature of the election, which had the largest turnout, at 77.4 percent of registered voters, in the history of Spanish elections since democracy was restored, points to the strong feelings of so many Spaniards. In the face of an attack unprecedented in its ferocity, the government gave the impression it wasn't being honest; and that it was trying to filter information in order to bolster its chances of remaining in office. The response was ferocious.

The Aznar government reaped what it had sowed by joining in the American led War on Terror on American terms, according to American tactics, which involved the cynical and devious manipulation of facts and information for political ends. While Aznar's Popular Party could count on a reservoir of good will due to its successful economic policies, it lacked a fundamental attribute of legitimacy: credibility among the people. Spaniards were powerless to prevent their government riding roughshod over public opinion against the war. The Popular Party, like the American Republican Party, gambled that public opposition would give way to public toleration if the great gamble paid off. The gamble paid off in bomb blasts in Madrid—and instead of owning up to the fact, the government of Spain stubbornly held to the view Basque separatists were to blame.

Today, even the Americans admit it seems al-Qaida is the more likely suspect in the Madrid bombings. Enough Spaniards felt that this was a reasonable assumption to feel insulted when their government kept insisting otherwise. So they voted that government out of office. The Spaniards are not appeasers. They are a people who understand, and expect, that democratic rule is derived from a legitimate mandate to govern. A mandate that cannot be maintained by lies, managing information, and most of all, using a national tragedy for political ends.



Roco will be another squatter coddler

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

FORMER PUBLIC Works Secretary Aber Canlas was fuming mad at the photograph on the front page of the INQUIRER last March 11. It showed President Macapagal-Arroyo addressing barangay leaders of Pampanga from the Centennial Expo stage in Clark. He was mad not at the INQUIRER for publishing the photograph but at the President herself, his *kabalen*, for not paying his fee, until now, for supervising the construction of the Centennial Expo. Yet she is going all over the country distributing government checks to court votes. The cash distributed to the barangay captains of Pampanga last March 11 must have amounted to several millions of pesos, yet the acknowledged debt to him is only P2.6 million. He has been trying to collect that since the time of President Fidel V. Ramos, but until now the government has not paid him in full. That is a debt not incurred by the President but by the Philippine government, he said.

He was long retired from government service when he was persuaded during the Ramos administration to be the project manager of the Centennial Expo because he has a reputation as a fast worker. By that time, the Expo was already behind schedule. The Australian engineer originally hired as the project manager had still not done anything one year after taking over. Yet this Australian was paid in full before he left the country, although he did not do anything. But he, Canlas, who finished the Expo double time, has not been paid in full eight years after its completion, when inflation has already reduced the value of the peso many times.

Canlas recalled that he and his workers worked day and night to finish the Expo on schedule. He lived and slept on the site; he didn't see his family for weeks at a time.

Yet when the project was finished, the government was very slow in paying him his fee, minuscule (only P2.6 million) compared to what President Macapagal is distributing every day.

"I did not ask for the job," said Canlas. "I didn't want it. But they kept urging me to accept it, out of patriotism, because the Centennial Expo was already delayed. Little did I know that it was my pay that they would delay instead after I finished the project on schedule."

There is no question about the fee, Canlas explained. The government acknowledges that it is its legitimate obligation. The problem is in the release of the funds. He has already approached several Cabinet members, (former Trade Secretary Mar Roxas and former Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, among them) as well as former officials of the Expo, he said. All of them promised to help, but until now, no payment.

Madam President, *magbayad naman kayo ng utang n'yo! Maawa naman kayo sa pinagkakautangan n'yo. Nakakahiya na.*

* * *

In this electoral campaign, as in all other previous campaigns, all the candidates profess love for the poor, that they're running for public office because they want to serve the poor, etc., etc., blah, blah, blah! Nobody speaks up for the middle class, the silent majority who pay the biggest chunk of taxes, the law abiding citizens.

Every candidate's heart bleeds for the squatters who steal and profit from the lots of teachers, clerks and other workers who scrimped and saved to pay for their small lots in subdivisions only to be taken over by squatters. No heart bleeds for the silent majority who are the real victims in this social anomaly.

The government collects real estate taxes from them only to spend them to coddle the squatters, who pay no taxes at all. A special law, the Urban Development and Housing Act, better known as the "Lina Law," was passed primarily to benefit one class, the squatters, at the expense of another class, the property owners. That law even levies an additional tax, besides the real estate tax, on lot owners to be spent specifically on squatters. What do the taxpayers get in return for their taxes? Nothing. The police, local government units and the national government don't assist the law-abiding property owners who pay their salaries, but fall all over themselves to coddle the lawbreakers, the opportunistic squatters, some of whom are richer than the teachers and clerks from whom they stole the lots they are living on.

Recently, presidential candidate Raul Roco announced that if he becomes president, he would ban the ejection of squatters for two years. Which is one more reason why we should not vote for him. Roco obviously made the announcement to court the squatter votes, another desperate move to stop the free fall of his ranking in the surveys. This is a terrifying prospect for lot owners and manna from Roco for squatters, landgrabbers and opportunists. That would be the signal for landgrabbers to take over somebody else's property.

Why coddle lawbreakers at the expense of law-abiding citizens? Because squatters are voters and politicians of all stripes want their votes. The antidote is for the middle class, the silent majority not to be silent anymore and form a major political bloc to support candidates who will protect their rights. Everybody talks of human rights but forgets the rights of the silent majority precisely because they are silent. Politicians hear only the noisy and violent lawbreakers who take to the streets and sow anarchy, but not the citizens who quietly obey the laws and dutifully pay their taxes.

Time for them to wake up and let their voices be heard.

Head or heart?

(Conclusion)

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

PAUL Baran makes a useful distinction between "intellect worker" and "intellectual."

An intellect worker, he says, is someone with a very high IQ. You'll find him heading a multinational, doing atomic research, leading an army. He does the task at hand with consummate skill, outdoing rivals, penetrating deeper into the secrets of the atom, successfully waging a campaign. What sets him apart from the intellectual is that he doesn't ask questions. He does his job without attempting to know, or do something about, what it's all for. He is concerned only with the means and not the ends.

The multinational executive may know at some point that his company is doing a host country harm, the atomic researcher that his research is being used to make weapons of mass destruction, the chief of staff that he is an instrument of tyranny, but they do not care. That is not their area of responsibility. That is somebody else's business, not theirs.

The intellectual on the other hand is someone with a good IQ, if not an exceptional one, who applies his abilities to a perceived good. What sets him apart from the "intellect worker" is that he asks questions: What is my research going to be used for? Whom is my work going to benefit? What good or harm will my actions accomplish? He does his job with the knowledge of what it's all for. He is concerned with the ends as much as the means. The ends—particularly the social impact of his work—is not somebody else's area of responsibility, it is his own. It is not somebody else's business, it is his own.

I'd go further and substitute the words "technician" and "intelligent person" for "intellect worker" and "intellectual." From where I stand, the hallmark of intelligence is the capacity to ask questions beyond the narrow parameters of one's specialization. The hallmark of intelligence is the capacity to look at means and ends. The hallmark of intelligence is the capacity to be responsible, or plain give a damn. The other kind is just technique, using skill and talent and knowledge to do tricks. It can bring in big bucks, but it is just variations, however highly sophisticated, of plumbing or fixing carburetors. Or from a macabre standpoint, finding ways to efficiently dispose of six million Jews.

True intelligence carries with it a moral dimension.

When we look for "head" in our future president, what are we really looking for? An intelligent person or a technician? You go by the definition of intelligence above, GMA won't qualify for it, she will qualify only as a technician. And not a very good one at that, to go by the state of the economy, at which she is supposed to be expert. Her version of "war against terror," which does not ask questions, which does not care about means and ends, and which has set back this country's independence and democracy by several decades by its sheer irresponsibility and recklessness, cannot possibly be a sign of moral intelligence.

But from the other end, neither may FPJ claim a franchise on heart. What is heart basically? That was the one thing that was associated with Erap too, but each time I asked people what Erap had done to show heart, people would tell me he went to the slums and drank with the residents there. There is a difference, they would add, between the way he ate with his hands in a hovel and the way GMA does the same thing, the difference being one of sincerity.

I'm not knocking these demonstrations of *pakikisama*. They indicate at least that Erap could see the poor, which is more than can be said for most of our leaders, even if he didn't care to uplift their lot. But that's all it comes down to: *pakikisama*. Getting along with people, the same virtue FPJ is presumed to possess in abundance. He has an easy smile and a ready hand for everyone, particularly the common man.

Even if that were true—and Franklin Cabaluna will disagree violently with it—that is not what heart is. It isn't just getting along with people, or being in the good graces of people, or not antagonizing people. Heart is basically two things: it is compassion, which in its truest sense is the capacity to put yourself in another person's shoes and feel what he is feeling, and it is passion, or the capacity to feel pain, anger, outrage, joy, exultation, or more than all that the capacity to fight for justice. Heart isn't just descending on the poor and breaking bread with them, it is looking at the world with the eyes of the poor. Heart isn't just *pakikisama*, it is seeing the outrage and wanting to do something about it, at risk of losing acceptance, popularity, even life and limb.

Heart is above all courage. I rarely use the phrase "moral courage" too simply because it is a redundancy, a superfluity, a repetition. Courage is as much moral as it is physical.

If you have the heart, you will have the head. If you have the compassion and the passion, you will have the (moral) intelligence. That is why I've always found the debate about head and heart a spurious one. The heart is inextricably linked to the head and vice versa. It is the ability to put yourself in the shoes—or since the poor rarely have them, the bare feet—of others and the capacity to rage at their torment that makes you ask questions about means and ends, whom growth and progress are for, what you are doing all this for. The "head" that has to do with expertise and letters after one's name is just *pataasan ng ihi*, as the local phrase graphically puts it, a game to see who can piss highest and farthest. The "heart" that has to do with smiling, handshaking and displaying humility is just all for show, of the not very blockbuster variety.

Head or heart?

Both. And that isn't evading the question. That is going to the heart of it.

Political aftermath of Madrid bombing

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CONSERVATIVE Popular Party of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar was swept out of power in Spain's weekend general elections, in a backlash over its handling of the terrorist bombings that killed 200 and wounded 1,500 commuters in Madrid. His government was the first European government which backed the US-led war on Iraq to lose office.

With increasing evidence that the al-Qaida terrorist organization was responsible for the attacks—the largest in Europe so far since the US-led war on terror was launched after the Sept. 11, 2001 bombing on New York—the Madrid attack sent a chilling message to countries that backed the United States in the war on Iraq. The message of retaliatory terrorist action was not lost on countries that sent troops to Iraq, among them the United Kingdom, Australia and Poland.

The message should not be lost on the Philippines. Although the Philippines, unlike Spain which sent 1,300 troops, did not send troops, it has dispatched a 95-man peacekeeping unit after the invasion of Iraq.

The immediate political casualty of the Madrid bombing was the Popular Party government and its policy of unswerving military backing of the US-led war on Iraq. The backlash not only swept the Socialist Party to office, but it left in ruins Spain's alliance with the United States. The Socialist prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who had pledged to withdraw the 1,300 Spanish troops in Iraq, said he would bring home the troops by June unless the United Nations took control of Iraq from the United States. In overturning the policy of close collaboration with the United States in the war on terror, Zapatero castigated the United States, saying, "You cannot organize a war with lies," referring to the claims of the United States and United Kingdom that Iraq had possessed weapons of mass destruction, as the justification for going to war.

The reversal of policy fractures the US-led "coalition of the willing." Spain is the first US ally to renounce participation in the alliance. It is also the first ally to be attacked with multiple bombing by terrorists.

The swing against the government toward the Socialists reflected the resentment of the Spanish voters, who turned out with a record 77 percent en masse in the polls, toward first, the government's close alignment with Washington and, second, the way Aznar politicized the bombing. The government focused the blame immediately after the bombing on the Basque separatist group, ETA, which denied involvement, but evidence of al-Qaida's hand in the attack emerged after it claimed responsibility and warned that countries that had joined the war in Afghanistan and Iraq faced attacks.

By blaming initially ETA, the government sought to divert attention away from its policy to sending troops to Iraq and backing Washington and to counter claims that its alliance with Bush invited terrorist attacks. The Spanish voters sent the message that the conservative government, after the bombing, misinformed them about the al-Qaida connection in the attack in order to justify its policy of close collaboration with Washington.

The Madrid bombing galvanized the European Union to call for an urgent meeting of European interior ministers and security chiefs, counter the new wave of terrorist attack amid indications of al-Qaida's involvement. The German interior minister, Otto Schily, reflected the European Union's concern when he said, "If it is confirmed that the Madrid attacks have an Islamic background, then it means Islamic terrorism has taken a new quality." Al-Qaida has warned "more blood will flow" unless Spain stopped supporting the occupation of Iraq.

The Madrid bombing was timed for Spain's general elections. The bombs exploded three days before the elections, suggesting that they could have been intended to influence the outcome of the elections. Zapatero of the Socialist Party had been tailing Aznar by a narrow margin in the opinion polls. The backlash of the bombing delivered a shock change of government The Socialists won 43 percent of the vote, the conservative party 37.6 percent.

The election is seen as a clear example of terrorism directly affecting a national election in Europe. By causing the defeat of the Aznar government, the bombing showed that al-Qaida has shown that it has shifted its strategy by using terrorism as a tool to change government and policy that had been hostile to it. Terror attacks have now become an instrument of political blackmail, and governments that have backed the war on terror are now acutely aware of this approach. Thus the message seems to be that governments backing the United States in the war on terror faced the risk of attacks intended to swing public opinion against them.

The reaction of Philippine security authorities indicates complacency. The question now is how much risk does the Philippines face. Among the countries that have sent forces to Iraq, the Philippines is probably low as a priority target for attacks. While the Philippines has not sent troops, it has sent peacekeeping forces, but peacekeeping forces in Iraq have not been spared attacks by Iraqi guerrillas.

Poland, one of the leading Eastern European allies of the United States in the "coalition of the willing," has 2,400 troops in Iraq and Japan has sent 1,000 peacekeeping forces, and Thailand, 473.

The Philippines has a home-grown terrorist group linked to al-Qaida. This should not lull Philippine security authorities into complacency. Foreign policy and security are not key election issues, as they were in Spain. But any terrorist attack in the Philippines close to elections, could determine the election outcome and highlight the security issue. It could render irrelevant the question of whether Sen. Panfilo Lacson would withdraw from the presidential race.

DOM nation

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF the quality of the advertising reflects the quality of the product, then drinkers have every reason to spurn Napoleon Brandy, judging from its tasteless advertising.

Enough has been said about the "Kinse Anyos" campaign, and the campaign to get Destileria Limtuaco, the company that produces this low-end brandy brand, to terminate the offensive advertising campaign.

Women's groups like Gabriela have picketed the Adboard and the distillery's offices and now threaten a boycott of its products. Isis, an international women's media organization, has launched a letter-writing campaign to get women and women's groups to air their protests to the brandy-maker and its advertising agency. The Juvenile Justice League, a group of lawyers and advocates for children's rights, has filed a case in court alleging violations of the law against child abuse since the ad insinuates its "okay" to have sex with a 15-year-old.

Now Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan has joined the fray. In a statement, the senator called on the ad agency "responsible for this" to be more vigilant, ensuring that its "advertisements are not offensive to good taste and morals but should give emphasis on social responsibility."

I don't know about social responsibility, but the "Kinse Anyos" campaign seems to reflect social mores, or what passes for social mores in this country. From all indications, it would seem that despite what so-called moral arbiters declare, older men having sex with children—or at least women so much younger than them—is acceptable, and more than that, amusing, entertaining and guaranteed to confer status on the man. Indeed, it seems there's an inverse relationship between the age of the woman on his arm and the *pogi* points the man earns.

* * *

BUT children are another matter altogether.

The ad makers and the Destileria Limtuaco owners have come out in print, radio and TV standing pat on their refusal to pull the ad and cancel the campaign.

They have even gone so far as to ascribe base motivations to those protesting the advertising campaign. Julius Limpe, of Destileria Limtuaco, interviewed on TV, blames the critics, saying the malice lies squarely in the eye of the prudish beholder.

How could people think the ad was about sex with a 15-year-old?, Limpe asked, when the billboards show a bottle of brandy and there's no body, certainly not the body of a child, depicted anywhere?

Well, why doesn't the billboard say: "*Nakatikim ka na ba ng kinse anyos na* brandy?" If we're to be so literal anyway, then why weren't they literal with their advertising?

If child sexual exploitation were not so common, and if we didn't have a growing population of child prostitutes, then perhaps the "*kinse anyos*" ad would not raise such public ire. Though I must say that sexual innuendoes involving 15-year-olds, even if this be brandy, would be offensive in any setting.

* * *

"MY God, this is such a DOM culture!" a friend on my e-group exclaimed when the "*kinse anyos*" ad was brought up.

At the height of the Jalosjos controversy, another newspaper ran an editorial defending the former congressman asking what crime he had committed by having sex with an 11-year-old-girl when the girl was being paid for her "services." Sadly, in this country, many men think that as long as they're paying for the sex, then they have every right to it even if it's with a child.

Sex and power, that's proven to be a particularly toxic equation for women and children here. Jo Ann Maglipon, in last Sunday's "Juice" column, recounts the campaign spiels of the KNP senatorial candidates during a rally in Leyte.

Ernie Maceda "opens to a '*bulaklak*' song and speaks of '*bulaklak*' opening," writes Jo Ann, after which a bold star comes out and whips up the crowd's passion.

Sonny Escudero follows on the same vein, "saying that, unlike the shy *probinsyano* who dared not kiss the boldie, he and his '*nag-iinit*' something, mixed with his '*mabangis*' something, promises conflagration right on stage."

Johnny Ponce Enrile claims he's the youngest of the 12 senatorial candidates "from the waist up" and the oldest "from the waist down" then warns the audience: but don't try me!

Asks Jo Ann: "All these sexual innuendoes coming from grandfathers!"

* * *

INDEED, what does one's sexual prowess have to do with one's qualifications for the Senate? Would Maceda, Escudero and Enrile be talking this way in their privilege speeches?

Even a relatively younger man like Jinggoy Estrada, who one might think has no need to testify to his own sexual prowess, strives to make voters remember him with his slogan: "*Pangit man akong tingnan, masarap naman akong tikman* (I may be ugly to look at but I'm tasty)!"

What are these men running for, senator or macho dancer?

This is the culture that surrounds us, and this is the culture in which that "*kinse anyos*" ad is situated. Everybody knows the hidden meaning behind the tag line that asks if one has ever "tasted" a 15-year-old, and the ad makers and those paying them are playing games when they cynically and hypocritically protest their innocence.

What were they thinking? They were thinking, I'm afraid, that Philippine society is so hypocritical about sex, blanching at the mere mention of it but reveling in sly, wink-wink innuendo and naughty metaphors, that a reference to sex with a child will not only be tolerated, but sell cheap brandy as well.

Enduring myths

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MYTH often proves more interesting and enduring than truth. We have a lot in the Philippines, for example: Kalantiaw, the non-existent datu from Aklan, who allegedly left a set of pre-colonial laws (the first in the country, *daw*) in 1433 and Urduja, the pre-colonial Turkish-speaking Amazon Queen of Pangasinan. Not all is history because in our own day and age we have Robina Gokongwei's snake twin that allegedly feasts on people who use the fitting rooms in Robinsons; also the "White Lady" who stalks those who drive alone at night along Balete Drive, Quezon City. Sometimes we have links to international fame and notoriety as in the preposterous belief that Adolf Hitler is the son of none other than our globe-trotting amorous hero Jose Rizal.

Most myths are harmless and quite amusing but some really get people excited, especially when it concerns fabulous wealth or hidden treasure. Two of the wealth myths I usually encounter are the Yamashita treasure and gossip that the Cojuangco fortune was founded on a bag of money, revolutionary contributions and funds, entrusted by Antonio Luna for safekeeping with Isidra Cojuangco shortly before he was assassinated in Cabanatuan in 1899. It is alleged that these funds were not returned to the Aguinaldo government and through Isidra's wise investment it grew into the Cojuangco fortune. Unfortunately, there is no documentation for this, and anyone who has gone through the mass of documents in the National Library, once known as the PIR or Philippine Insurgent Records (now renamed PRR or Philippine Revolutionary Records), will see that when it came to money our founding fathers and revolutionary leaders kept good records. If only for the romantic side of the story I sometimes wish the above rumor were true but then as the late Teodoro Agoncillo used to say, "No document, no history!"

For the past 50 years many people, both Filipinos and foreigners, have spent their time, money and energy in search of Yamashita's elusive treasure. Going through my files, I unearthed a whole envelope filled with photocopied clippings from the pre-martial law Manila Times and Daily Mirror that contains sightings of this fabled treasure which is believed to be somewhere in Northern Luzon. Then there are other sites for other Japanese treasure not necessarily Yamashita's. A sampling is as follows:

1954. The City of Baguio issued treasure-hunting permits to people who wanted to excavate within the city and didn't want to go and get the national permit issued by the executive secretary in Malacañang. Naturally, this resulted in a digging spree.

1956. A site was pinpointed two square kilometers west of Besang Pass and the M.S. Hung Sing that supposedly carried all the looted gold from Southeast Asia and was en route to Japan was supposed to be somewhere in the Babuyanes. Twelve men from Manila started excavating the Cebu City Capitol building in search of the Japanese treasure but obviously found nothing. Sixty million worth of gold was the subject of another intensive search in the mountain ranges of Silay.

1957. Again the P50 million worth of gold bullion was supposedly sunk off Bongao, off Jolo. This must have been such a serious story that someone in the Foreign Property Section, Japanese Finance Ministry, issued a statement that, "If it was true that (the bullion) was discovered in a Japanese ship, and if it belonged to the Japanese armed forces... It should become national property." Japan, according to this anonymous official, had not relinquished its rights to salvaged property.

1962. Treasure worth P1.6 million was dug up in Duran Street, Iloilo. Gold bars, assorted jewelry were reportedly found in three jars, a steel safe and arms cache left by Japanese soldiers.

1966. Excavations were being undertaken in Hungduan, Mt. Province where Yamashita made his last stand before he surrendered to allied troops in 1945. Excavations were also undertaken in the vicinity of St. Peter's Cathedral in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

What makes me wonder is that for the past 50 years, despite all the treasure hunters, their maps, oral testimony and sophisticated metal detectors nobody has found a thing. One source says that the so-called Yamashita treasure simply consists of: 1.5 million in Philippine silver coins, 20 gold bars and US$950,000 cash that Yamashita ordered burned in Kiangan, Mountain Province in August 1945. That doesn't sound like very much but then in 1971 the now legendary "Golden Buddha" was found by Rogelio Roxas. This has become mythical as well because the supposed "original" was stolen and a copy was substituted for it. This hollow golden image (maybe it was polished brass?) had a detachable head and inside was supposedly jewelry and valuables looted by Yamashita during his travels around Malaya. Another story concerns solid gold medals struck from all the looted gold melted down into bars or tablets. Those engraved with the Chinese character for "luck" were assigned to the Philippines, the ones with the characters for "longevity" or "fortune" were assigned to Burma.

Since we see these symbols on Chinese calendars every year, maybe these tales of wealth and treasure are mythical as unicorns though there is no harm in dreaming of striking it rich one day.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Falling

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE MOST terrifying moment was that split second when I realized I'd lost my balance; time froze, stretching to the edge of eternity as I desperately tried to stay on my feet.

The rest, from what I remember, were like frames in a slow motion film: falling to my knees and feeling the pain as they grated against the rough pavement, crying out and stretching out an arm to cushion the fall, then feeling my face smash into the ground, the world imploding around me.

Even on the ground, I knew it was a bad fall, feeling my gums, lips, knees and hands bleeding. I was able to make my way back to the hotel, where I realized I just had my first mid-life fall.

Let me explain why I'm writing about this fall, which happened last month while I was attending a meeting in London on university business.

It used to be that if you were older than 40, you were quite old, someone who had lived a full life, to be thoroughly experienced with life, with nothing new to learn. Today, "mid-life" is a liminal period, still young by contemporary life expectancies, yet way past life's midpoint, accompanied by all kinds of new challenges and threats. Yet, partly because we fear old age and partly because we don't want to be called a hypochondriac, we do not talk enough about what's happening, to let others know they're not alone in dealing with problems, whether minor ones like not being able to read as well in dim light, or more serious ones, like falling.

We can be rational about all that happens, including these falls. Evolution is imperfect, especially with this matter of standing on two feet instead of four. Each step we take, we're actually in danger of falling flat on our face. This happened all the time when we were infants, as we learned to stand and walk. Childhood remained precarious, with many accidental falls, but eventually, we mastered the art of standing and moving on two feet, with only an occasional fall.

In mid-life our sense of balance begins to deteriorate, and falls become more frequent. We have to learn, as many older people do, to develop strategies, both to prevent falls as well as to avoid serious injuries—shielding the head for example—when an accident does occur.

More importantly though, I'm realizing we in mid-life have to gird ourselves for the psychological dimensions of these falls. I've seen the way older people swing through a whole gamut of emotions after such falls, and realized, with my own accident, why that happens.

There's the feeling of total helplessness during the fall itself, followed by, well, hurt pride. A passerby had tried to help me, asking in proper BBC English: "What a nasty fall. Is there anything I can do?" I resisted the temptation to be Latin and hysterical, and responded stoically, "Thank you, I'll manage."

And manage I did, limping back to the hotel in the freezing cold and again feeling embarrassed as the mostly Latin American staff promptly went hysterical, scurrying around trying to figure out what to do. I calmly asked for a bucket of ice, retreating to my room to apply the RICE regimen: rest, ice, compression and elevation of the injured parts.

I know that with some people, depression can follow, especially if the falls are frequent. Here, I draw inspiration from my mother, who always manages to get back to normal routines quite quickly after the fall, provided of course a medical check-up confirms there are no contusions or fractures.

It helps to be busy; I just didn't have time to feel blue, having to attend meetings for the next four days, and just occasionally feeling conscious about the clotted wounds around my lips making me look like I didn't know how to shave.

Life moves on, the wounds heal, although expect this to take longer as we age. It's these accidents that test our ability to be resilient, to reason, "It could have been worse." These mishaps also test our ability to marshal our sense of humor. I wrote to my friends that the first thing that came to my mind as I laid on the ground and felt my gums bleeding was, "*Corona ko! Corona ko!*" I was referring, of course, to my dental crowns but "*corona ko*" is such a wonderful rendition of the feeling that comes with a loss of poise.

The accidents, too, make us appreciate our social networks, friends e-mailing and texting from all over. (But not my parents, who I chose not to tell, lest they worry.) It helps, too, as we begin to face mid-life, to find good physicians who can handle accidents like these. It was only after I returned to the Philippines that I finally saw a doctor, my mother recommending her orthopedic expert, Dr. David Cabatan, who comforts you without allowing you to wallow in a dependent sick role. "Yes, you can continue working on the computer," he assured me.

Not that I ever stopped, initially avoiding the use of sore fingers but eventually getting back to all 10. But, and I say this with head bowed again in great shame, I write now with a new injury, a fractured foot, following another accident two weeks after that fall.

Nonsense, I reply, when friends suggest malevolent forces are at work, but yes, I'm going to listen to New Age friends warning me it's my body crying out, "You're not that young anymore. Slow down."

So I hope people will understand why I've suspended some of the work I've been putting into new university projects (a medical anthropology program, for example), as well as having to turn down several speaking invitations. I promise the columns will continue, I hope with minimal lapses. It's just as well that I learn to take this coming of (old) age with the penitential spirit of Lent.

THEY SAID

Impermanent allies

"Even your allies who are elected with you, once they are seated in the Senate then they consider themselves independent of you."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo on wanting a federal government to have a merging of powers to avoid a perennial gridlock between co-equal branches of government

Ilocano royalty

"Ilocanos adored the late President (Ferdinand Marcos) that is why they treated his children with respect. But the children do not look after us. They act like the sons of a king."

—Laoag Mayor Roger Fariñas, criticizing incumbent governor, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos whom he will run against in the coming elections

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Political aftermath of Madrid bombing

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE CONSERVATIVE Popular Party of Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar was swept out of power in Spain's weekend general elections, in a backlash over its handling of the terrorist bombings that killed 200 and wounded 1,500 commuters in Madrid. His government was the first European government which backed the US-led war on Iraq to lose office.

With increasing evidence that the al-Qaida terrorist organization was responsible for the attacks—the largest in Europe so far since the US led war on terror was launched after the Sept. 11, 2001 bombing on New York—the Madrid attack sent a chilling message to countries that backed the United States in the war on Iraq. The message of retaliatory terrorist action was not lost on countries that sent troops to Iraq, among them the United Kingdom, Australia and Poland.

The message should not be lost on the Philippines. Although the Philippines, unlike Spain which sent 1,300 troops, did not send troops, it has dispatched a 95-man peacekeeping unit after the invasion of Iraq.

The immediate political casualty of the Madrid bombing was the Popular Party government and its policy of unswerving military backing of the US-led war on Iraq. The backlash not only swept the Socialist Party to office, but it left in ruins Spain's alliance with the United States. The Socialist prime minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, who had pledged to withdraw the 1,300 Spanish troops in Iraq, said he would bring home the troops by June unless the United Nations took control of Iraq from the United States. In overturning the policy of close collaboration with the United States in the war on terror, Zapatero castigated the United States, saying, "You cannot organize a war with lies," referring to the claims of the United States and United Kingdom that Iraq had possessed weapons of mass destruction — the justification for going to war.

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The swing against the government toward the Socialists reflected the resentment of the Spanish voters, who turned out with a record 77 percent en masse in the polls, toward first, the government's close alignment with Washington and, second, the way Aznar politicized the bombing. The government focused the blame immediately after the bombing on the Basque separatist group, ETA, which denied involvement, but evidence of al Qaida's hand in the attack emerged after it claimed responsibility and warned that countries that had joined the war in Afghanistan and Iraq faced attacks.

By blaming initially ETA, the government sought to divert attention away from its policy to [illegible] Iraq and backing Washington and to counter claims that its alliance with Bush invited terrorist attacks. The Spanish voters sent the message that the conservative government, after the bombing, misinformed them about the al-Qaida connection in the attack in order to justify its policy of close collaboration with Washington.

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MYTH often proves more interesting and [illegible]ing than truth. We have a lot in the Philippines, for example: Kalantiaw, the non-existent datu from Aklan, who allegedly left a set of pre-colonial laws (the first in the country, dated in 1433) and Urduja, the pre-colonial Turkish-speaking Amazon Queen of Pangasinan. Not all is history because in our own day and age we have Robina Gokongwei's snake twin that allegedly fe[illegible] people who use the fitting rooms in Robinson's; also the "White Lady" who stalks those who drive alone at night along Balete Drive, Quezon City. Sometimes we have links to international fame and notoriety as in the preposterous belief that Adolf Hitler is the son of none other [illegible] globe-trotting amorous hero Jose Rizal.

Most myths are harmless and quit[illegible] but some really get people excited [illegible] when it concerns fabulous wealth or hidden treasure. Two of the wealth myths I usually encounter are the Yamashita treasure and gossip that the Cojuangco fortune was founded on a bag of money, revolutionary contributions and funds trusted by Antonio Luna for safekeeping with Isidra Cojuangco shortly before he was assassinated in Cabanatuan in 1899. It is alleged that these funds were not returned to the Aguinaldo government and through Isidra's wise investment it grew into the Cojuangco fortune. Unfortunately, there is no documentation for this and anyone who has gone through the [illegible] in the National Library, once kn[illegible] Philippine Insurgent Records (now [illegible] PRR or Philippine Revolutionary Records [illegible] that when it came to money [illegible] and revolutionary leaders kept good records. If only for the romantic side of the story [illegible] times wish the above rumor were true but then the late Teodoro Agoncillo used to say, "No document, no history!"

For the past 50 years many people, [illegible]ipinos and fore[illegible] the money and energy in search of Yamashita's elusive treasure. Going through my files, I unearthed a whole envelope filled with photocopied clippings from the pre martial law Manila Times and Daily Mirror that contains sightings of this fabled treasure which is believed to be somewhere in Northern Luzon. Then there are other sites for other Japanese treasure not necessarily Yamashita's. A sampling is as follows.

1954. The City of Baguio issued treasure-hunting permits to people who wanted to excavate within the city and didn't want to go and get the national permit issued by the executive secretary in Malacañang. Naturally, this resulted in a digging [illegible].

1956. A site was pinpointed two square kilometers west of Besang Pass and the M.S. Hung Sing that supposedly carried all the looted gold from Southeast Asia and was en route to Japan was supposed to be somewhere in the Babuyanes. Twelve men from Manila started excavating the Cebu City Capitol building in search of the Japanese treasure but obviously found nothing. Sixty million worth of gold was the subject of another intensive search in the mountain ranges of Silay.

1957. Again the P50 million worth of gold bullion was supposedly sunk off Bongao, off Jolo. This must have been such a serious story that someone in the Foreign Property Section, Japanese Finance Ministry, issued a statement that, "if it was true that (the bullion) was discov[illegible] Japanese armed forces. . It should become national property." Japan, according to this anonymous official, had not relinquished its rights to salvaged property.

1962. Treasure worth P1.6 million was dug up in Duran Street, Iloilo. Gold bars, assorted jewelry were reportedly found in three jars, a steel safe and arms cache left by Japanese soldiers.

1966. Excavations were being undertaken in Hungduan, Mt. Province where Yamashita made his last stand before he surrendered to allied troops in 1945. Excavations were also undertaken in the vicinity of St. Peter's Cathedral in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

What makes me wonder is that for the past 50 years, despite all the treasure hunters, their maps, oral testimony and sophisticated metal detectors nobody has found a thing. One source says that the so-called Yamashita treasure simply consists of: 1.5 million in Philippine silver coins, 20 gold bars and US$950,000 cash that Yamashita ordered burned in Kiangan, Mountain Province in August 1945. That doesn't sound like very much but then in 1971 the now legendary "Golden Buddha" was found by Rogelio Roxas. This has become mythical as well because the supposed "original" was stolen and a copy was substituted for it. This hollow golden image (maybe it was polished brass?) had a detachable head and inside was supposedly jewelry and valuables looted by Yamashita during his travels around Malaya. Another story concerns solid gold medals struck from all the looted gold melted down into bars or tablets. Those engraved with the Chinese character for "luck" were assigned to the Philippines, the ones with the characters for "longevity" or "fortune" were assigned to Burma.

Since we see these symbols on Chinese calendars every year, maybe these tales of wealth and treasure are mythical as unicorns though there is no harm in dreaming of striking it rich one day.

[illegible]

Falling

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE MOST terrifying moment was that split second when I realized I'd lost my balance; time froze, stretching to the edge of eternity as I desperately tried to stay on my feet.

The rest, from what I remember, were like frames in a slow motion film: falling to my knees and feeling the pain as they grated against the rough pavement, crying out and stretching out an arm to cushion the fall, then feeling my face smash into the ground, the world imploding around me.

Even on the ground, I knew it was a bad fall, feeling my gums, lips, knees and hands bleeding. I was able to make my way back to the hotel, where I realized I just had my first mid-life fall.

Let me explain why I'm writing about this fall, which happened last month while I was attending a meeting in London on university business.

It used to be that if you were older than 40, you were quite old, someone who had lived a full life, to be thoroughly experienced with life, with nothing new to learn. Today, "mid-life" is a liminal period, still young by contemporary life expectancies, yet way past life's midpoint, accompanied by all kinds of new challenges and threats. Yet, partly because we fear old age and partly because we don't want to be called a hypochondriac, we do not talk enough about what's happening, to let others know they're not alone in dealing with problems, whether minor ones like not being able to read as well in dim light, or more serious ones, like falling.

We can be rational about all that happens, including these falls. Evolution is imperfect, especially with this matter of standing on two feet instead of four. Each step we take, we're actually in danger of falling flat on our face. This happened all the time when we were infants, as we learned to stand and walk. Childhood remained precarious, with many accidental falls, but eventually, we mastered the art of standing and moving on two feet, with only an occasional fall.

In mid-life our sense of balance begins to deteriorate, and falls become more frequent. We have to learn, as many older people do, to develop strategies, both to prevent falls as well as to avoid serious injuries—shielding the head for example—when an accident does occur.

More importantly though, I'm realizing we in mid-life have to gird ourselves for the psychological dimensions of these falls. I've seen the way older people swing through a whole gamut of emotions after such falls, and realized, with my own accident, why that happens.

There's the feeling of total helplessness during the fall itself, followed by, well, hurt pride. A passerby had tried to help me, asking in proper BBC English: "What a nasty fall. Is there anything I can do?" I resisted the temptation to be Latin and hysterical, and responded stoically, "Thank you, I'll manage."

And manage I did, limping back to the hotel in the freezing cold and again feeling embarrassed as the mostly Latin American staff promptly went hysterical, scurrying around trying to figure out what to do. I calmly asked for a bucket of ice, retreating to my room to apply the RICE regimen: rest, ice, compression and elevation of the injured parts.

I know that with some people, depression can follow, especially if the falls are frequent. Here, I draw inspiration from my mother, who always manages to get back to normal routines quite quickly after the fall, provided of course a medical check-up confirms there are no contusions or fractures.

It helps to be busy; I just didn't have time to feel blue, having to attend meetings for the next four days, and just occasionally feeling conscious about the clotted wounds around my lips making me look like I didn't know how to shave.

Life moves on, the wounds heal, although expect this to take longer as we age. It's these accidents that test our ability to be resilient, to reason, "It could have been worse." These mishaps also test our ability to marshal our sense of humor. I wrote to my friends that the first thing that came to my mind as I laid on the ground and felt my gums bleeding was, "*Corona ko! Corona ko!*" I was referring, of course, to my dental crowns but "*corona ko*" is such a wonderful rendition of the feeling that comes with a loss of poise.

The accidents, too, make us appreciate our social networks, friends e-mailing and texting from all over. (But not my parents, who I chose not to tell, lest they worry.) It helps, too, as we begin to face mid-life, to find good physicians who can handle accidents like these. It was only after I returned to the Philippines that I finally saw a doctor, my mother recommending her orthopedic expert, Dr. David Cabatan, who comforts you without allowing you to wallow in a dependent sick role. "Yes, you can continue working on the computer," he assured me.

Not that I ever stopped, initially avoiding the use of sore fingers but eventually getting back to all 10. But, and I say this with head bowed again in great shame, I write now with a new injury, a fractured foot, following another accident two weeks after that fall.

Nonsense, I reply, when friends suggest malevolent forces are at work, but yes, I'm going to listen to New Age friends warning me it's my body crying out, "You're not that young anymore. Slow down."

So I hope people will understand why I've suspended some of the work I've been putting into new university projects (a medical anthropology program, for example), as well as having to turn down several speaking invitations. I promise the columns will continue, I hope with minimal lapses. It's just as well that I learn to take this coming of (old) age with the penitential spirit of Lent.

THEY SAID

Impermanent allies

"Even your allies who are elected with you, once they are seated in the Senate then they consider themselves independent of you."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo on wanting a federal government to have a merging of powers to avoid a perennial gridlock between co-equal branches of government

Ilocano royalty

"Ilocanos adored the late President (Ferdinand Marcos) that is why they treated his children with respect. But the children do not look after us. They act like the sons of a king."

—Laoag Mayor Roger Fariñas, criticizing incumbent governor, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos whom he will run against in the coming elections

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I respect, even if I can't understand, the decision of my colleagues. But we are needed here by more sick Filipinos as physicians than we are needed by sick Americans out there as nurses.

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Maybe, it's now time for the Department of Foreign Affairs to intervene. The consul who interviewed Liggayu must be declared persona non grata. Why couldn't this heartless consul, for humanitarian reasons, let Liggayu travel to save a life?

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And to FPJ now running for Philippine president, my humble reminder: A philosopher during the First century A.D. once said, "Conceal a flaw, and the world will imagine the worst!"

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The recent murder incident in the UP Diliman campus is a wake-up call for the council officials of Barangay UP Campus and Barangay Krus na Ligas of their responsibilities in implementing the ordinances and policies that ensure the safety and welfare of children in their respective communities.

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End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (Ecpat)-Philippines, 123 V. Luna Road Ext., Sikatuna Village, Diliman, QC

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I am appealing to President Macapagal-Arroyo to also pay heed to the plight of the long-suffering SSS pensioners.

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AN OPEN LETTER OF APPEAL

A Step towards Creating the Clark Aerotropolis

EXPANDED AIR SERVICES TO THE DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (DMIA) & SUBIC BAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (SBIA)

The vision is clear : Create the first AEROTROPOLIS in the country, a world-class hub incorporating the latest advancements in aviation and transport. The potential economic benefits, not only to local residents but to the entire country, are substantial and much-needed.

On some 33,000 hectares of prime land in Central Luzon, the planned hub is about 80 kilometers north of Manila and 60 kilometers east of Subic Bay, a natural entry point to the Asia-Pacific region.

Presently known as the Clark Special Economic Zone, this Aerotropolis will combine the facilities of Clark and the Subic Bay Freeport with the construction of an P18-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway, which will fast-track the distribution of time-sensitive goods and services.

Emerging as a new and independent industrial region in Central Luzon, the Clark Aerotropolis will have as its heart and soul the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA).

Networks of access by air, land and sea will connect the Aerotropolis with the Subic Bay International Airport (SBIA) to maximize potentials for global trade.

Salient to the vision of converting Clark into an Aerotropolis is the transformation of the DMIA and the SBIA as premier Asian gateways to the world.

Keen competition from other Asian gateways, such as South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, and most especially from China, make it imperative for the DMIA and SBIA to operate under a liberalized environment.

In order to become truly competitive and achieve sustainable growth, DMIA and SBIA must go the way of other Asian gateways — adopt a policy of liberalization in civil aviation to respond better to the demands of global competition, and abandon the old and ineffective protectionist orientation.

Executive Order No. 253, which was signed by Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on December 3, 2003, declared access to DMIA and SBIA as development routes.

Sadly, some special-interest groups, which are not even stakeholders in Clark or Subic, are actively working for the voiding repeal of EO No. 253 which will be tantamount to retardation of the growth of DMIA and SBIA.

These groups claim that EO No. 253 will mean surrendering Filipino sovereignty to the United States and other countries. This is false. Philippine air carriers remain our top priorities and are most welcome to operate in DMIA and SBIA, and shall be granted full incentives.

Opening the DMIA and SBIA to international cargo carriers, contrary to the baseless allegation of these special-interest groups, will generate more jobs and foreign exchange revenues needed to enable both airports and pave the way for them to become premiere gateways to the world.

Perhaps, those who oppose EO No. 253 are afraid that competition would expose their inefficiencies, even if such competition will bring about increased productivity, improved efficiency, more jobs, and cheaper and more varied goods and services for consumers.

Rather than oppose liberalization, wouldn't it be better for these parties to enhance their competitiveness and work with the welfare of the entire nation in mind?

Our more progressive Asian neighbors which have "Open Skies" agreement with the United States and other countries have benefited without relinquishing their sovereignty; why will the Philippines be the first?

Going for the conventional approach of securing additional entitlements for DMIA and SBIA is not dynamic enough to maximize the utilization of these multi-million dollar and strategically located airports.

Recovery for our country's economy is long overdue and very costly if further delayed.

Enhancing the competitiveness of key airports like DMIA and SBIA, along with the upgrading of Philippine air carriers, are key requisites for the growth of our country's civil aviation industry.

Sound, bold and pioneering strategic policy decisions, such as the adoption of liberalized civil aviation at DMIA and SBIA — even if initially unpopular — are crucial and timely for fast-tracking Philippine economic progress.

Sustainable development in Central Luzon which will inevitably spill over to the entire country: that is what the Aerotropolis stands for.

OFW Alliance Worldwide • Apostleship of the Sea-Manila • Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MACCI) • Clark Investors and Locator Association (CILA) • Soroptomist International Angeles City • Rotary Club of Angeles • Rotary Club of Mabalacat • Rotary Club of Metro Angeles • San Fernando Jaycee Senate • Kiwanis Club of Clark Field • Kiwanis Club of Metro Angeles • Angeles City-Clark Balibago Lions Club • Angeles City Centennial Lions Club • Pampanga Chamber of Commerce & Industry • Hotel and Restaurant Association of Angeles • Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association • North Luzon Business Council • Pinoy, Gumising Ka Movement

TITO LAZATIN
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'Suitor' shoots teacher

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Ma Rose Vi Gever, 30, and a grade six teacher, is now fighting for her life at the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City.

Her mother, Rose and some friends were praying at the hospital chapel while she was undergoing surgery for a bullet wound in the head, hospital sources said.

The alleged gunman Arlson Tribaco Jaud, 31, and a resident of Barangay Zone 2, sustained a bullet wound in the head and was declared dead at about 1:05 p.m. at the Bacolod Our Lady of Mercy Specialty Hospital.

Chief Insp. Jerry Bartolome, Talisay police chief, said the pupils were already dismissed for their noon break when Jaud arrived at about 11:15 a.m.

The suspect locked the door. Other teachers heard three gunshots from Gever's classroom followed by two more shots a few minutes later.

Police said Gever sustained bullet wounds in the chest. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Anti-NPA mayor escapes ambush try in Sorsogon

By Emir Emano Gamis, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CASTILLA, Sorsogon—Mayor Renato Laurenaria of this town, who has openly declared an all-out war against the New People's Army, escaped an ambush attempt on Monday after he was fired at by armed men believed to be NPA members.

Laurenaria's group was on its way to Barangays Amomonting and Miluya, this town to consult with workers for the construction of a P2.5-billion international seaport here.

The government-owned truck where the group was riding, was entering Barangay Amomonting when at least seven armed men atop a hill fired at him and his seven companions at 2:15 p.m., Monday.

Laurenaria told the INQUIRER that he was not hurt but some of his companions suffered bruises when they jumped out of the truck they were riding.

"NPA, there's no one else to suspect," he said when asked who might be behind the ambush.

He said he had been receiving death threats from the rebels who warned him not to enter remote areas because they will target him.

Senior Supt. Arne de los Santos, Sorsogon police chief, said the ambush was an apparent "harassment" against Laurenaria, a retired police superintendent, who once headed the Traffic Management Group's Task Force Limbas, and a reelectionist in the mayoral elections.

Laurenaria is known as the only mayor in the province who declared an "all-out war" against the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing last year.

He told the INQUIRER that the "all-out war will continue, not really a war as it is, but a war . . . for the development of Castilla."

Areas of concern

De los Santos said Army soldiers based in Barangay La Union, and Castilla police immediately responded to the ambush and engaged the rebels in a three-minute gunfight that had the rebels retreating to Barangay Bagong Sirang.

With the incident, Castilla, which has 12 barangays listed as areas of concern by the Philippine National Police, may be listed as an immediate area of concern, according to De los Santos.

Police recently identified Barangays Loreto, Maracabac, Milagrosa, La Union, San Roque, Maypangi, Mayon, Miluya, Dancalan, San Isidro, Bagong Sirang and Bagalayag as among this election's areas of concern, based on classified information obtained by the INQUIRER.

Laurenaria said he would ask for the deployment of more soldiers in Castilla because of the incident. "More deployment of (Army soldiers). That's what I'm seeing."

He expressed confidence that the incident will not discourage the investors of the P2.5-billion international seaport, which was inaugurated early January.

In January, NPA rebels reportedly poked guns at Sorsogon Rep. Joy Solis (second district) while he was attending a turn-over ceremony of a road project in Barangay Union in Gubat.

The rebels demanded a permit-to-campaign fee from Solis.

Anakpawis leader missing in Laguna

LUCENA CITY—A farmer organizer of the Anakpawis party-list group in Barangay Buo, Magdalena, Laguna was abducted by a group of armed men believed to be members of the military on Saturday, militant groups reported yesterday.

Crispin Beltran, Anakpawis national political party chair, identified the victim as Pedro Bueta, a 54-year-old farmer.

The victim's wife, Rosita, said at least 15 armed men in fatigue uniforms forcibly took her husband from their hut at around 10:30 a.m., according to Beltran.

The initial report of a fact-finding team composed of Anakpawis and Karapatan members showed that the military and the Cafgu had been conducting alleged harassment against Bueta since March 11.

"Last Friday, March 12, seven men in fatigue pants and combat boots arrived at Bueta's house looking for a certain Ka Ruben. The men introduced themselves as members of the New People's Army and said Ka Ruben told them to retrieve his gun and half a sack of rice from Bueta's house," said the groups' report furnished the INQUIRER.

The report said the strangers disregarded Bueta's denial that he knew Ka Ruben and then forced their way into the house and ransacked the place.

After two hours, the men left the house and threatened Bueta that they would return to kill him and his entire clan if he did not tell them how to reach the NPA.

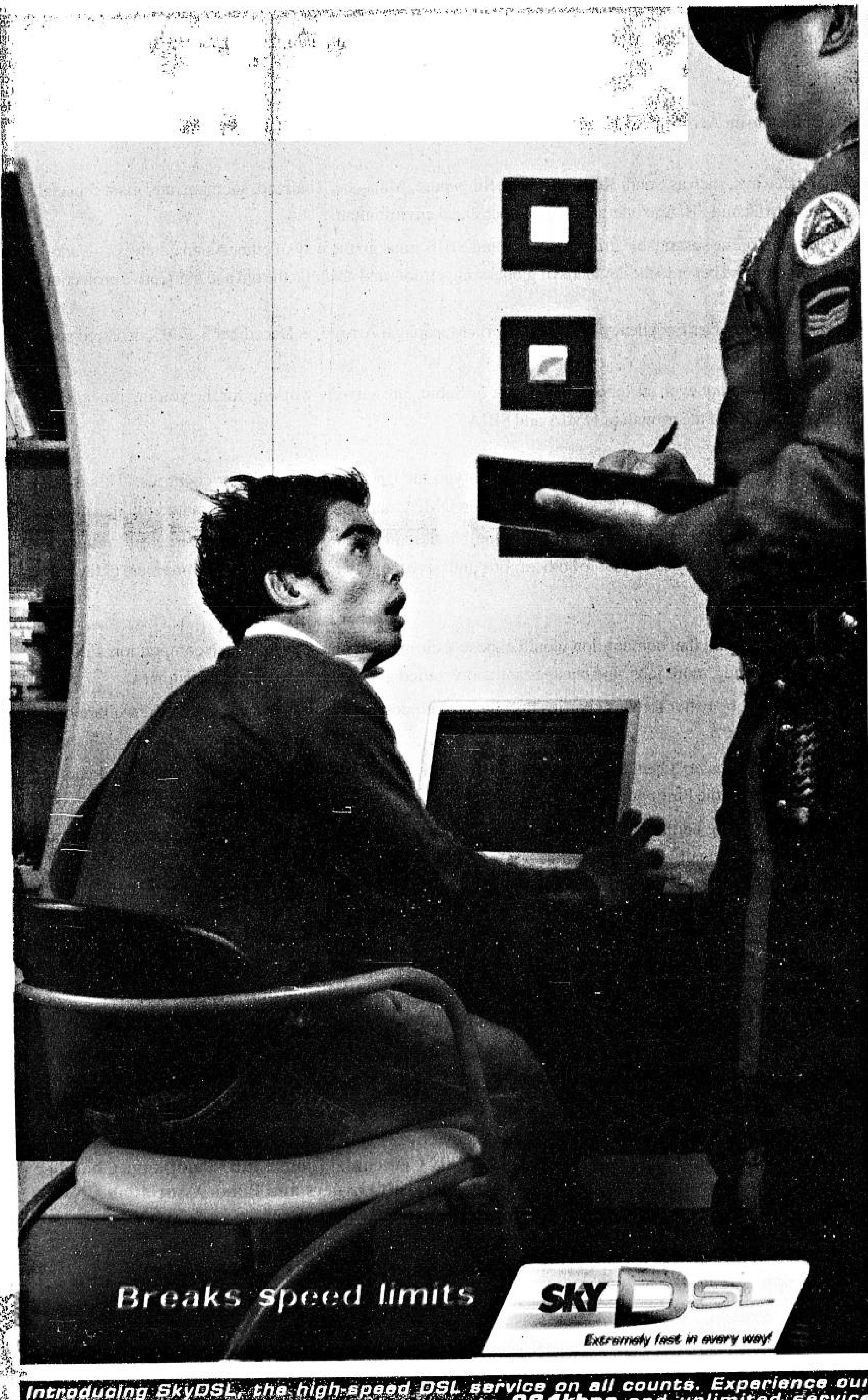
Bueta's house is located in an area leading towards military and Cafgu detachments.

The following day, March 13, the armed group came back and forcibly took Bueta who was alone in the house.

A neighbor, a farmer named Oca, identified one of the abductors as a member of the Cafgu, said the report.

A search with different police and military camps yielded nothing. Since then, nothing has been seen or heard of Bueta.

Beltran demanded the immediate release of Bueta. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



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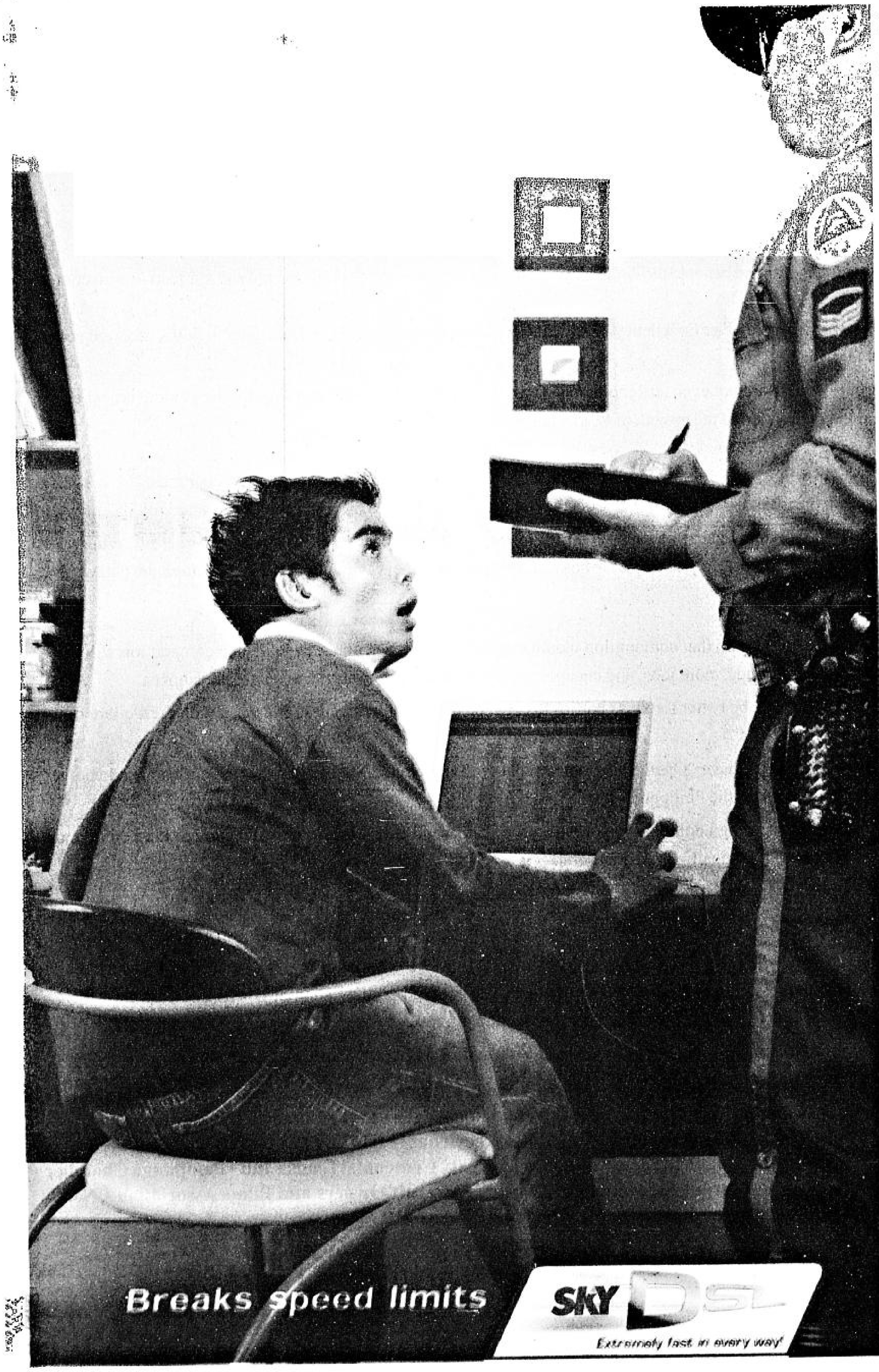

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2 rebels, soldier slain in clash in Bohol town

By Chito A. Fuentes and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Two communist rebels and a soldier were killed when government troopers clashed with New People's Army (NPA) members on Sunday at a remote village in Batuan town, Bohol.

Maj. Raul Mendez, 302nd Infantry Brigade civilian military operations officer, identified the slain soldier as Sgt. Medardo Modelo of the Army's 28th Special Forces (SF) Company based in Bilar town.

Modelo, of Hinigaran town Negros Occidental, was hit in the chest during the exchange of gunfire with the communist rebels at Sitio Cansingi, Barangay San Jose Batuan town, about 70 km northwest of this city.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado said based on reports he received from the police and the military, Modelo lost a lot of blood and died while being transported to the town proper.

Cansingi, a remote mountain village, is about 10 km from the town proper. It has only about six houses and is leading to Batuan's boundary with Catigbian town.

One of the slain rebels was only identified by his *nom-de-guerre* "Ka Alvin," said to be a member of the NPA Front 1, which operates in western and central Bohol.

The body of the other rebel was recovered on Monday by Batuan town officials in Barangay Aloha, about 3 km from the site of the encounter.

Mendez said about 25 personnel of the 28th SF Company led by Lt. Johnny Bayog went to Sitio Cansingi after receiving information that the rebels had put up a temporary camp in the village.

The team of Bayog found about 40 rebels, relaxing in their makeshift camps in Cansingi.

SPO2 Gamaliel Merlas of the Batuan police station said the gunfight broke out at about 5:30 a.m. but the exchange dragged on until 8 a.m.

NPAs release captured member of Cafgu; Army says it's a ploy

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The New People's Army yesterday freed a militiaman whom they captured in a raid on an Army detachment in February in Himamaylan City, Negros Occidental.

Eduardo Raya, 28, and said to be a member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) was released at the house of Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra.

His release paper was signed by Ka Ricardo Dalakit, commanding officer of the NPA Bonifacio Pasakan Command, and Marti Marasigan, NPA political officer.

Released

According to the paper, Raya was released in good physical condition.

The communist rebels captured Raya last Feb. 15 during a raid on the 61st IB detachment in Barangay Mahalang, Himamaylan, 82.9 kilometer south of here.

About five firearms were taken from the detachment during the raid, which Gen. Jeffrey Sodusta said were Garands and M-14 rifles that were defective anyway.

Ploy

But Sodusta, 303rd Infantry Brigade commander, said Raya was not a Cafgu member and his supposed release was just an NPA propaganda ploy.

"We were still checking on the background of Raya, a rebel returnee, to determine if he was an accomplice of the NPA in the raid on the Mahalang detachment because if he was we would file charges against him," he said.

"If Raya was a Cafgu (member), does he have appointment papers to show for it?" he asked.

Raya had claimed that the military failed to pay his P1,800 in monthly allowance for two months.

But Sodusta said Raya was not paid because he was not a Cafgu member.

He said Raya underwent basic military training but he was a volunteer worker at the detachment who cooked food for the soldiers and went marketing.

"It is good that the NPA released Raya unharmed. They probably finally realized that the person they captured was not a militiaman," he said.

Raya, however, insisted that he was a Cafgu member.

He said the rebels had kept him blindfolded and tied him up for two weeks. He said they built him a shack with leaves for roof deep in the forest.

Conviction

"You could not see any lights from nearby homes," he said. "They did not harm me."

Ka Quintero Magtanggol, spokesperson of the Bonifacio Pasakan Command, said in a statement given to the bishop that the NPA revolutionary court found Raya responsible for the raid on an NPA squad in Sitio Kulihaw, Barangay Buenavista, Himamaylan, on Nov. 15, 2002.

During that raid, the Cafgu members and soldiers from the 61st IB detachment took a .38 caliber pistol, a Garand rifle and personal belongings of the NPA fighters, Magtanggol said.

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The NPA said Raya had not committed crimes against civilians while he was with the Cafgu. Another reason for his release was that his wife was five months pregnant.

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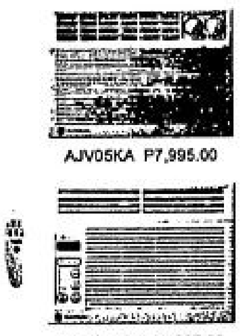

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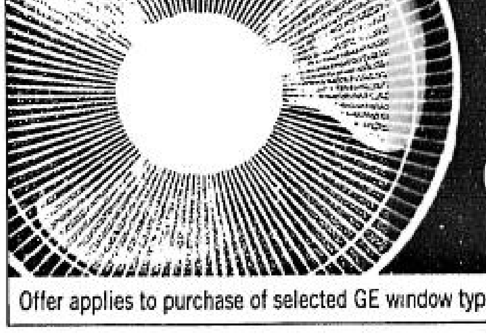

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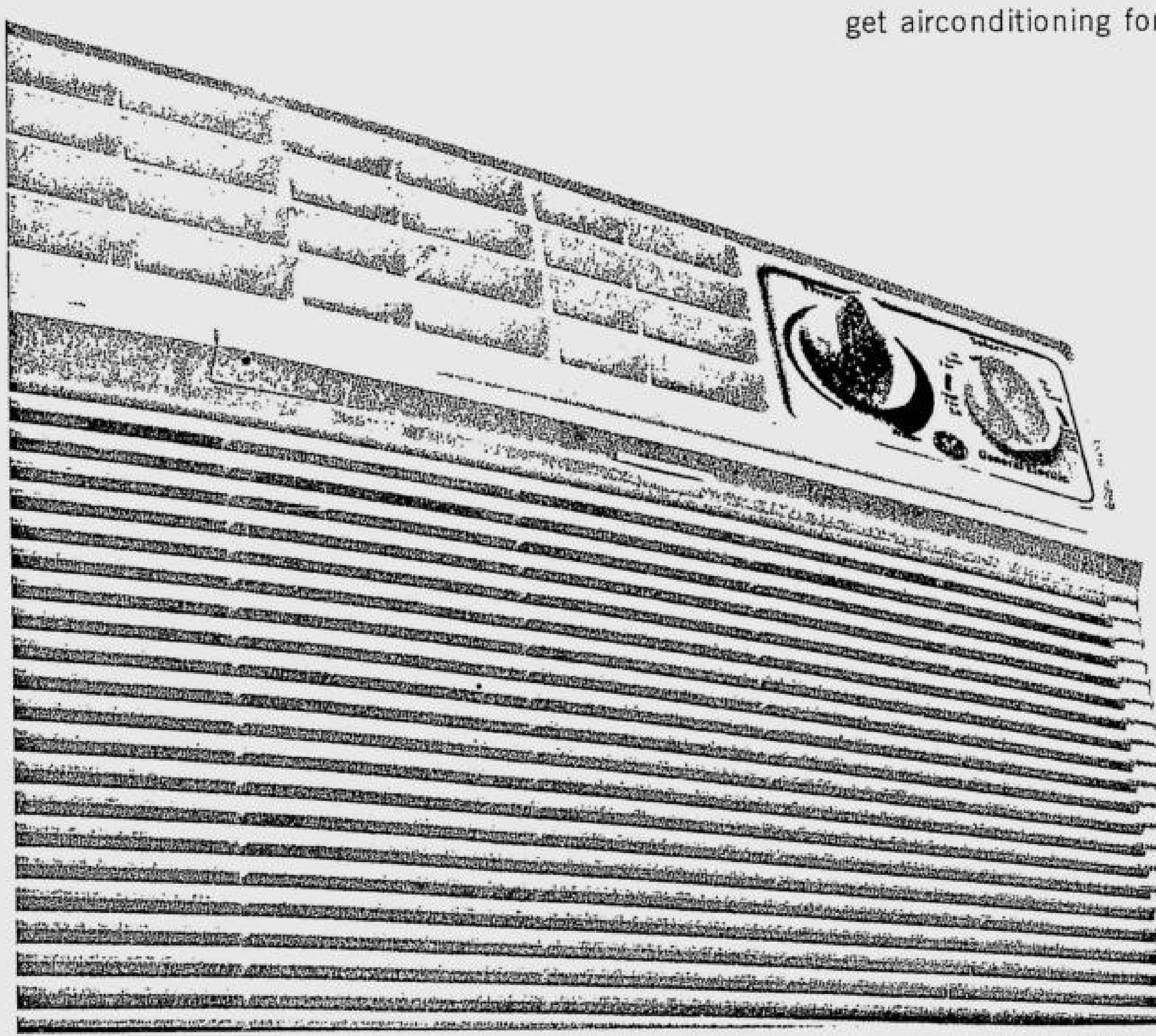

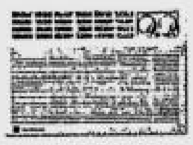
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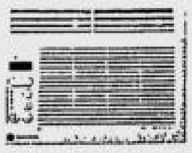
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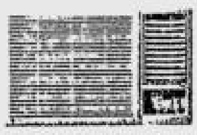
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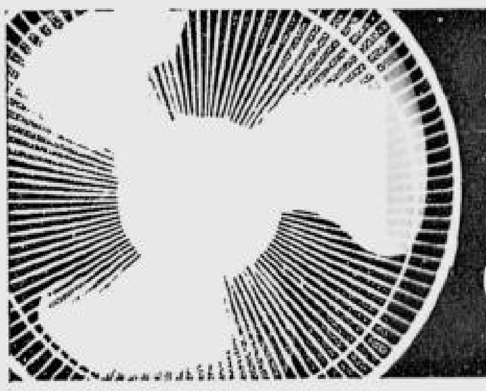

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Rolando B. Fernandez**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NURSE Riazel Mayo says her tattoos are for "information and identity."

Fil-Ams revive ancestors' lost art

By Ikin Salvador
Contributor

DESPITE the waning of *batek* (traditional tattoos) practice in modern times, a group of young Filipino-Americans in the United States is reviving the traditional tattoos by putting permanent indigenous markings on their skin.

The group, called the Tatak ng Apat na Alon Tribe, is an organization of doctors, anthropologists, teachers, nurses and lawyers based in Los Angeles, California, who were inspired to seek their Filipino roots by studying old literatures on tattooing and culture.

Established in 1998, the members have traveled to different universities and has attended tattoo conventions and cultural events throughout California. They said this was an opportunity to educate young and old Filipinos who may have lost touch on the rich cultural heritage of the Philippines.

Rebirth

Elle Festin, 29, an anthropology major at the California University of Long Beach and one of the group's founders, said he was initially inspired by the *tatatuw*, the Polynesian tattoos that natives wore to celebrate their ancestors' achievements.

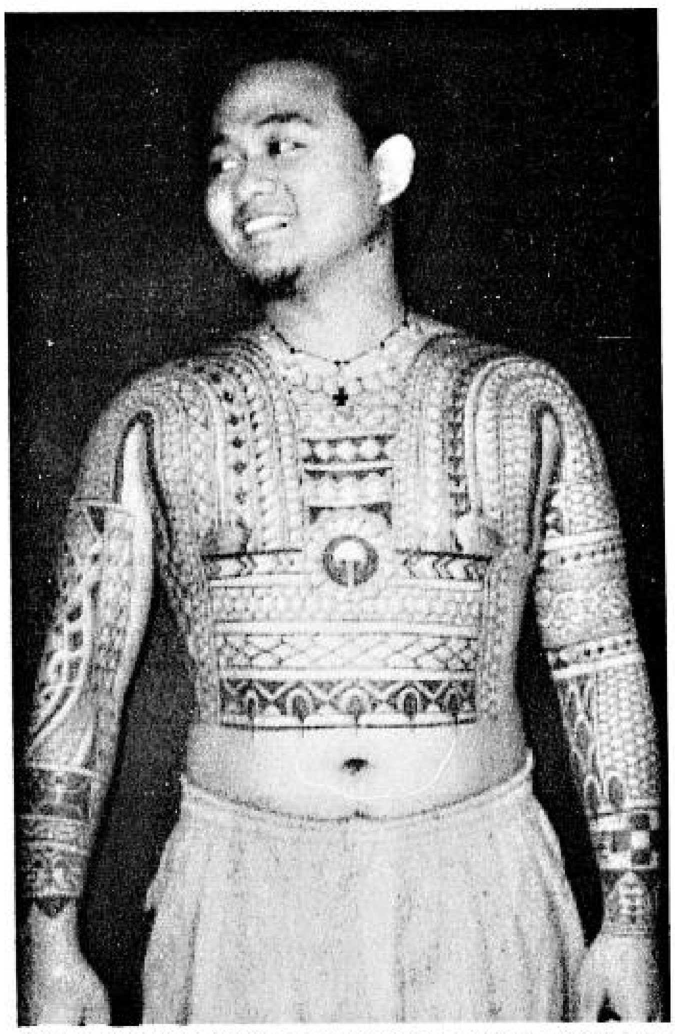
A native of Occidental Mindoro, Festin embarked on a journey to search for his ancestors' traditional tattoos. He worked on his "own curriculum," studying tribal tattoos found in the Philippines.

Now, his skin is a virtual record of his commitment and dedication to this vanishing art.

Festin has the contemporary version of the *bikking*, the traditional chest tattoo of a Kalinga warrior.

"The revival of Filipino tattooing tradition will put it on the spotlight ... that it is deep, it is poetic and most of all, beautiful," he said.

He tattooed his upper and lower arms, back, ears and legs with tribal tattoo designs from the Cordillera and the Visayas in six months.


ANTHROPOLOGY student Elle Festin shows the traditional chest tattoo of a Kalinga warrior.

Headhunting

Festin likens himself to a "contemporary headhunter" because, he says, he "hunts heads (and) educates them."

He says an aspiring member of his group needs to go through a rigorous study and understanding of Filipino culture in general. This, in turn, will help a new member realize the many aspects overlooked by history, including the traditional art of tattooing.

"Filipino tribal tattoos are different from the usual art, but is a journey of regaining consciousness to our ancestors' art," says Rocky Lewis, 29, the group's modern day version of the *manbatek* (tattoo artist).

Before a member gets tattooed, initial consultations and research are made to determine what designs he or she deserves. A member is given the option to be tattooed with sacred symbols as a permanent mark of acceptance.

Like the old traveling *manbatek* in Kalinga, the group also invites famous tattoo artists to execute the traditional designs to its members.

Identity

Riazel Mayo, 21, a nurse and graphics designer in the US, has the Kalinga woman's tattoo on her body. She says she displays her tattoos "for information and identity."

Mayo, who traces her roots to Olongapo City, says they are open to journalists who would want to feature them because this is an opportunity for Filipinos living in the US and in other countries "to see something very positive take shape."

Sixty out of the group's 64 members are tattooed and are accepted in their respective social circles in the US. Some members say the tattoos may connote negative things for others, but they stress that they do not see it that way.

"Tribal tattoos do not look like prisoners' (tattoos), but they look like (marks of) a noble king and his daughter, a beautiful princess, (who are) filled with accomplishments," they say.

The members' dedication to the study of traditional Filipino tattoos, as shown through the use of their bodies as canvas, is an indication that this dying art is on the path of renaissance.

Tattoo festival

Part of reviving old traditions in Kalinga is the holding of the Ullalim Festival last month. The cultural festival was attended by 50 old Kalinga men and women who have traditional tattoos on their bodies. It was a celebration and recognition of their achievements, as recorded on their skin.

The elaborate tattoos found on the old men's chests signify their participation in tribal wars, while the women's tattoos tested their endurance to painful rites of passage.

Lakay Casing, 72, recalls his participation as a "warrior-soldier" during the Japanese occupation in the Philippines. He was tattooed in the arms for killing Japanese soldiers.

He admitted that he was also imprisoned in the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa for crimes which were acceptable in their traditional community as acts of bravery.

He has unfinished tattoos of the Sto. Niño and a moon as reminders of his stay in prison.

Beautiful

Rosa Uddok, 57, and Merta Peddac, 62, can easily identify a "beautiful tattoo" from other women who are sporting similar marks.

They say a beautiful tattoo is dark, fully lined and does not fade.

Women showing this kind of tattoo are the ones who have endured pain. They say a woman who endures pain is "not only beautiful, but a very brave woman."

Apong Simeona, on the other hand, says she has an unfinished tattoo because she could not bear the pain. She says she experienced high fever after she was tattooed on the right arm. The tattoos on her left arm did not reach her shoulders and neck.

The Gaddang in Kalinga, who came in their colorful costumes and adornments, also participated in the festival. They call their traditional tattoos *burik*—three parallel lines found on the chest and back of the men. The tattoo is also found on the back of the hand of the women.

Young Kalinga men who performed in the festival tried to imitate the elaborate tattoos of their elders by using a marker to draw the various designs on their bodies.

The elders say seeing the young tattooed men join the ritual dance is a good sign that young Kalingas are aware of their traditions.

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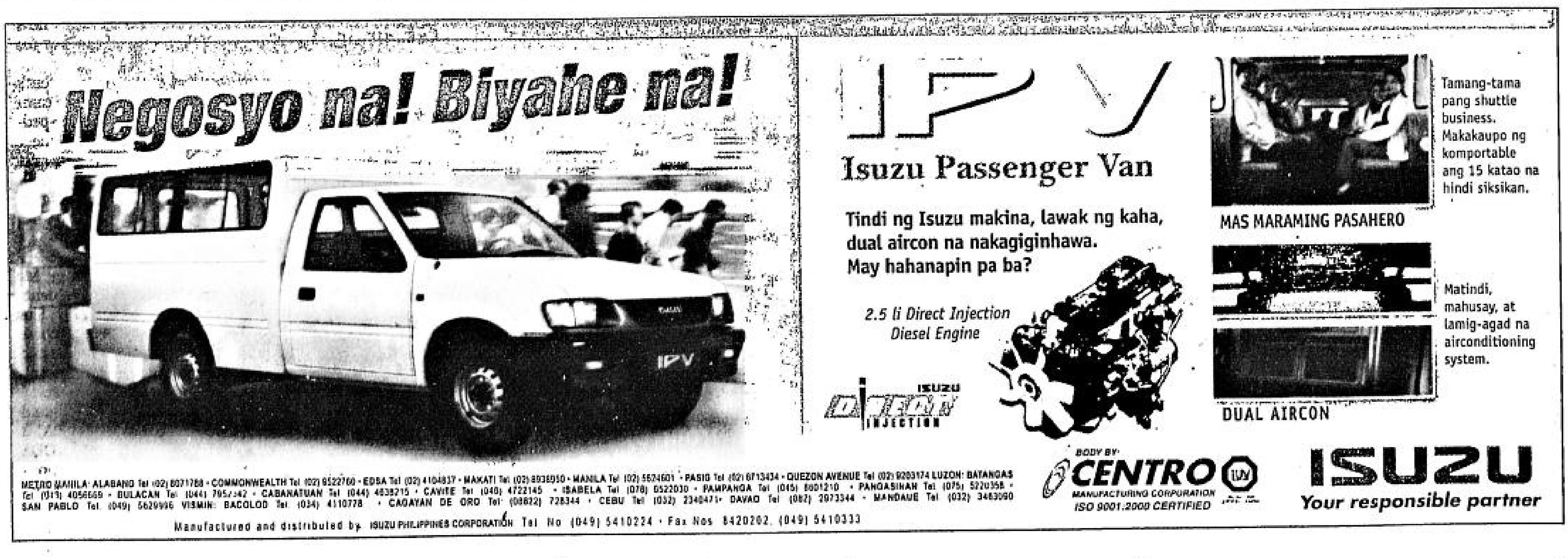
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FPJ scraps talks with Ping

From page A1

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"Mr. Lacson has been, to my mind, marginalized with the entry of Mr. Poe who has been receiving overwhelming, tremendous support from the people," Pimentel told reporters in the Senate.

"So regardless of whether or not they team up, Mr. Poe is going to win," he declared.

Asked to comment on Lacson's offer for Poe to be his running mate, Pimentel said he did not think Lacson should impose this condition on Poe who, he said, was the leading candidate.

"It would be like the tail wagging the dog," he said.

Poe broke promises

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Lacson said that there were other ways of uniting aside from one having to slide down. He said the two candidates could, among other things, guard each other's ballots in the elections and in the counting.

Like a movie

Jinggoy Estrada, son of deposed President Joseph Estrada, nevertheless expects Poe to emerge victorious in the end, just like in a typical Poe movie.

"Poe is only allowing himself to be beaten up first," said the young Estrada, a KNP senatorial candidate. "It's just like in the movies."

Asked why Poe was not responding to Lacson's tirades, Jinggoy said: "Poe getting miffed? In the end he will emerge the winner."

Lito Banayo, Lacson's political adviser, chided Estrada for describing the row between the senator and the actor as a "typical FPJ movie."

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Gil declared a nuisance candidate by Comelec

From page A1

"I can't control that; I have 30 million members. *Kung magkagulo, ako sasama sa gulo* because I love the Filipino people," he said, but added: "I am a law-abiding citizen."

Gil was previously disqualified as a nuisance candidate when he ran for the Senate in 2001. He was later allowed to run but lost, receiving the lowest number of votes among the senatorial candidates.

'Not stupid'

The eight-page decision, written by Commissioner Florentino Tuason and concurred in by Sadain and Commissioner Manuel Barcelona, was issued in response to the petition to disqualify Gil filed by Christian evangelist Eddie Villanueva, standard-bearer of Bangon Pilipinas.

Villanueva shrugged off Gil's warning that trouble would result from his disqualification.

"Filipinos are not stupid people. They will not take to the streets unless there is a cause," Villanueva said in an interview in Davao City, where his party held two rallies.

He called on the Comelec to immediately disseminate information on Gil's disqualification to overseas Filipino voters who had already started casting their ballots.

Villanueva expressed relief that the threat of stray votes posed by Gil's candidacy was finally removed: "I thank God and the Comelec for at last upholding justice, truth and righteousness even if it is a little delayed. Now we can go all-out in our campaign."

Congratulations

Ignacio Bunye, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, noted that while she had earlier said "the more choices we have, the better for our democratic institutions," the decision was "well within the discretion of the Comelec."

Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson, Michael Defensor, said Gil's disqualification served to disprove Villanueva's claim that Malacañang intended to sabotage the evangelist's votes through Gil's candidacy.

"I want to congratulate Brother Eddie Villanueva because in the past this was his complaint..." Defensor said. "I hope this would somehow help dissuade him from believing that we are behind [Gil]."

Defensor said Malacañang respected the Comelec decision and enjoined Gil and his supporters to likewise accept and respect it.

"I hope that even when he's disqualified, he can still help contribute in the payment of our debt. He had [claimed to have] a secret formula for that," Defensor said.

Asked if Malacañang would invite Gil to join Ms Macapagal, Defensor said: "*Puno na kami* (Our slate is full). Of course, we leave it to him but ... we would welcome any support."

Asked if he did not consider Gil a liability, he said: "Not really. It's just that a lot of people have a lot of ideas to help the country, and as long as these are not illegal and they are supportive of the President, we welcome the support."

Defensor said Malacañang remained hopeful as well that Villanueva would eventually join the President.

Mockery

The Comelec based its decision on Section 69 of the Omnibus Election Code, which states that an aspirant's candidacy may be canceled if it can be shown that the certificate was filed "to put the election process in mockery or disrepute" or to cause confusion among voters, and if circumstances or acts clearly demonstrate that the candidate has "no bona fide intention to run" for the presidency.

To show that Gil had no intention of running for the presidency, the Comelec cited his nonpayment of his hotel, transport and food bills during the first week of the campaign, his issuance of "bouncing checks," and his conviction for falsification of public documents.

The Comelec also noted the recent withdrawal of five of Gil's senatorial candidates—Roberto Brillante, Jose Floro Crisologo, Eddie Ilarde, Pilar Pilapil and Ramon Montaño—from his slate, and said he had not proven his capability to mount a nationwide campaign in his personal capacity.

"His integrity [was] tarnished and put in question when five of his senatorial candidates withdrew from his party," the Comelec said. "These matters clearly belied and made a big joke of his promise to Filipino voters that he would pay the national debt with his own money if elected."

Supreme Court

Manny Santos, Gil's spokesperson and executive vice president of Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa, said the Comelec had made a mockery of the law.

He said they would take all legal remedies and elevate the case to the Supreme Court.

He also said Gil would continue to campaign despite the Comelec ruling, and would go around Quezon City, Mandaluyong and Taguig within the week.

Santos said Gil's "millions" of supporters nationwide were threatening to hold protest actions.

He said there was unrest among Gil's party mates, whom they were "trying to control."

Isang Bansa senatorial candidate El Cid Fajardo, also one of

ERIK ARAZAS

GIL rips Comelec resolution describing him as no stranger to games imposters play.

Gil's lawyers, said he expected the latter's popularity to rise with the Comelec decision.

He also said that with their planned appeal, he expected the case to be resolved after the May 10 election.

"I think it has made Eddie Gil more popular. Imagine, he will be in the limelight in the days to come because we'll be filing motions for reconsideration and go to the Supreme Court. And the Supreme Court will be able to decide on the matter after the election," Fajardo said, adding:

"By that time, the people may have spoken. I do not want to preempt the Supreme Court, but we will fight until the election."

'Shooting binge'

Gil acquired a new lawyer yesterday in the person of Jose Balbuena, former head of the Comelec law department.

Balbuena informed the Comelec's second division of his designation only after the dispositive portion of the decision had been read.

Finding himself suddenly surrounded by reporters, Balbuena pretended to pull out a shotgun and shoot those blocking his path.

"*Pak ... Pak ... Pak ... Uuwi muna ako* (I'm going home first)," he said after telling reporters that the decision was unfair to Gil and that he planned to file an appeal.

He continued "firing" at the reporters, who made a path for him as he strode out of the building.

Asked why Gil's lawyers were a no-show, Fajardo said: "*Huwag kayong maingay, hindi ko alam* (Don't pester me, I don't know)." ***With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera and Margaux Ortiz***

Disqualifying GMA would be 'a miracle'

From page A1

(PCSO) for allegedly spending government funds for Ms Macapagal's campaign. Since the start of the campaign, the President has handed out thousands of Philhealth cards bearing an image of herself cradling a child.

Ms Macapagal was unruffled by the disqualification suit. "As far as the cases filed against me, these are part of the legal process and my lawyers will take care of that," she said at a press conference at the Marco Polo Davao.

The President maintained that she had been complying with the Comelec rules on airtime.

President can pardon self

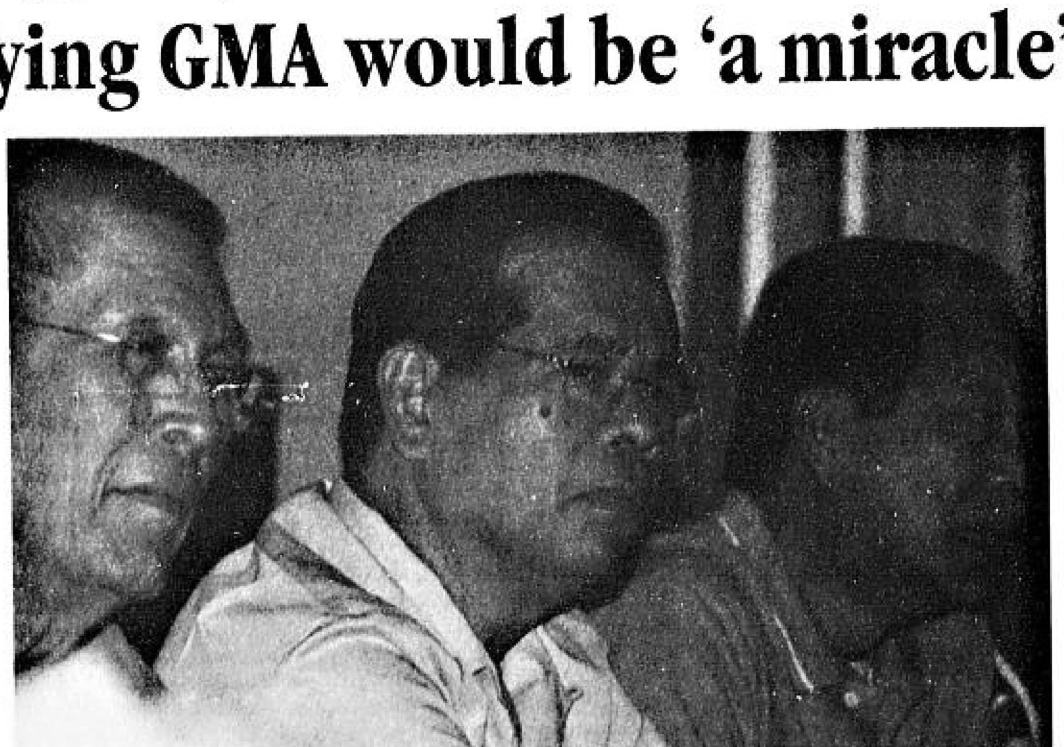
Taking up the cudgels for Ms Macapagal, administration senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago said there was no legal basis for the disqualification case.

"Assuming that she is found guilty of exceeding the time limit for television advertising, she can simply pardon herself," Santiago said.

In a statement, Santiago noted that Ms Macapagal's "constitutional power as an incumbent president allows her to grant pardon."

Time limit extended

That is why, "even if convicted of the offense, she could easily pardon herself," said Santiago, a



FAMILIAR figures from the days of martial rule Juan Ponce Enrile, Francisco Tatad and Ernesto Maceda, who are the opposition's senatorial candidates, hold a press conference to denounce the alleged violation by the GMA camp of the Comelec resolution which limits a presidential candidate to 120 minutes of TV ads. JESS YUSON

former Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge.

The senatorial candidate explained that "even if the Comelec prosecutor decides to file the case against the President with the RTC, the judge would still have to conduct a full-dress trial which could take a year."

Santiago said the Comelec "will probably dismiss the complaint during the preliminary investigation because on Feb. 18, the body passed a resolution extending the time limit for TV ads from 120 minutes for all TV stations to 120 minutes for each TV station."

"The Comelec resolution must comply with the requirement of publication before it can take effect after publication, even (while) the preliminary investigation is still pending. The new resolution takes effect and applies retroactively, meaning the complaint would have to be dismissed," she said.

Owwa funds

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said she would resign from her post if it was proven that Overseas Workers Welfare Administration funds were transferred to Philhealth, allegedly for use in Ms Macapagal's campaign.

The allegation was first aired by Migrante International after Pro-Con(stitution) accused the heads of Philhealth and PCSO of using government funds, which could reach P6 billion, for the Greater Medical Assistance (GMA) program.

Pro-Con(stitution) said the GMA program aims to enroll 5 million poor people and their families in Philhealth as part of the election campaign of Ms Macapagal.

Sto. Tomas said the Migrante allegation was baseless.

Permit to rally

Reports about the administration party's huge election spending has alarmed actor Fernando Poe Jr. of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP). "Pity our people. I hope this is not true," Poe said in Cagayan de Oro City last week.

In Davao City, some 1,500 supporters of Bangon Pilipinas, many of them members of the Jesus is Lord Movement, staged a political rally on Monday night at Freedom Park, 100 meters from the Marco Polo Hotel where Ms Macapagal was staying.

The President and the entire K-4 senatorial slate were in the city in time for the Araw ng Dabaw celebrations. "We hope that the President would realize how much people are crying out for change," Villanueva said.

He appealed to the President's camp to be a "sport" in the campaign and avoid influence-peddling. The Davao City government tried to cancel the permit to rally issued to Bangon Pilipinas after learning of the President's visit on Monday.

Independent Church

In Panabo City yesterday, Ms Macapagal promised residents peace and development. She gained the support of the Philippine Independent Church when she said that the welfare of Mindanao was important in her administration.

"The bulk of the Overseas and Development Assistance (ODA) is here in Mindanao," she said. ODA consists of grants and donations from foreign donors for development projects. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Gil declared a nuisance candidate by Comelec

From page A1

"I can't control that; I have 30 million members. *Kung magkagulo, ako sasama sa gulo* because I love the Filipino people," he said, but added: "I am a law-abiding citizen."

Gil was previously disqualified as a nuisance candidate when he ran for the Senate in 2001. He was later allowed to run but lost, receiving the lowest number of votes among the senatorial candidates.

'Not stupid'

The eight-page decision, written by Commissioner Florentino Tuason and concurred in by Sadain and Commissioner Manuel Barcelona, was issued in response to the petition to disqualify Gil filed by Christian evangelist Eddie Villanueva, standard-bearer of Bangon Pilipinas.

Villanueva shrugged off Gil's warning that trouble would result from his disqualification.

"Filipinos are not stupid people. They will not take to the streets unless there is a cause," Villanueva said in an interview in Davao City, where his party held two rallies.

He called on the Comelec to immediately disseminate information on Gil's disqualification to overseas Filipino voters who had already started casting their ballots.

Villanueva expressed relief that the threat of stray votes posed by Gil's candidacy was finally removed: "I thank God and the Comelec for at last upholding justice, truth and righteousness even if it is a little delayed. Now we can go all-out in our campaign."

Congratulations

Ignacio Bunye, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo, noted that while she had earlier said "the more choices we have, the better for our democratic institutions," the decision was "well within the discretion of the Comelec."

Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson, Michael Defensor, said Gil's disqualification served to disprove Villanueva's claim that Malacañang intended to sabotage the evangelist's votes through Gil's candidacy.

"I want to congratulate Brother Eddie Villanueva because in the past this was his complaint..." Defensor said. "I hope this would somehow help dissuade him from believing that we are behind [Gil]."

Defensor said Malacañang respected the Comelec decision and enjoined Gil and his supporters to likewise accept and respect it.

"I hope that even when he's disqualified, he can still help contribute in the payment of our debt. He had [claimed to have] a secret formula for that," Defensor said.

Asked if Malacañang would invite Gil to join Ms Macapagal, Defensor said: "*Puno na kami* (Our slate is full). Of course, we leave it to him but ... we would welcome any support."

Asked if he did not consider Gil a liability, he said: "Not really. It's just that a lot of people have a lot of ideas to help the country, and as long as these are not illegal and they are supportive of the President, we welcome the support."

Defensor said Malacañang remained hopeful as well that Villanueva would eventually join the President.

Mockery

The Comelec based its decision on Section 69 of the Omnibus Election Code, which states that an aspirant's candidacy may be canceled if it can be shown that the certificate was filed "to put the election process in mockery or disrepute" or to cause confusion among voters, and if circumstances or acts clearly demonstrate that the candidate has "no bona fide intention to run" for the presidency.

To show that Gil had no intention of running for the presidency, the Comelec cited his nonpayment of his hotel, transport and food bills during the first week of the campaign, his issuance of "bouncing checks," and his conviction for falsification of public documents.

The Comelec also noted the recent withdrawal of five of Gil's senatorial candidates—Roberto Brillante, Jose Floro Crisologo, Eddie Ilarde, Pilar Pilapil and Ramon Montaño—from his slate, and said he had not proven his capability to mount a nationwide campaign in his personal capacity.

"His integrity [was] tarnished and put in question when five of his senatorial candidates withdrew from his party," the Comelec said. "These matters clearly belied and made a big joke of his promise to Filipino voters that he would pay the national debt with his own money if elected."

Supreme Court

Manny Santos, Gil's spokesperson and executive vice president of Isang Bansa, Isang Diwa, said the Comelec had made a mockery of the law.

He said they would take all legal remedies and elevate the case to the Supreme Court.

He also said Gil would continue to campaign despite the Comelec ruling, and would go around Quezon City, Mandaluyong and Taguig within the week.

Santos said Gil's "millions" of supporters nationwide were threatening to hold protest actions.

He said there was unrest among Gil's party mates, whom they were "trying to control."

Isang Bansa senatorial candidate El Cid Fajardo, also one of Gil's lawyers, said he expected the latter's popularity to rise with the Comelec decision.

ERIK ARAZAS

GIL rips Comelec resolution describing him as no stranger to games imposters play.

He also said that with their planned appeal, he expected the case to be resolved after the May 10 election.

"I think it has made Eddie Gil more popular. Imagine, he will be in the limelight in the days to come because we'll be filing motions for reconsideration and go to the Supreme Court. And the Supreme Court will be able to decide on the matter after the election," Fajardo said, adding:

"By that time, the people may have spoken. I do not want to preempt the Supreme Court, but we will fight until the election."

'Shooting binge'

Gil acquired a new lawyer yesterday in the person of Jose Balbuena, former head of the Comelec law department.

Balbuena informed the Comelec's second division of his designation only after the dispositive portion of the decision had been read.

Finding himself suddenly surrounded by reporters, Balbuena pretended to pull out a shotgun and shoot those blocking his path.

"*Pak ... Pak ... Pak . . Uuwi muna ako* (I'm going home first)," he said after telling reporters that the decision was unfair to Gil and that he planned to file an appeal.

He continued "firing" at the reporters, who made a path for him as he strode out of the building.

Asked why Gil's lawyers were a no-show, Fajardo said: "*Huwag kayong maingay, hindi ko alam* (Don't pester me, I don't know). *With reports from Juliet Labog Javellana, Blanche S. Rivera and Margaux Ortiz*

Disqualifying GMA would be 'a miracle'

From page A1

(PCSO) for allegedly spending government funds for Ms Macapagal's campaign. Since the start of the campaign, the President has handed out thousands of Philhealth cards bearing an image of herself cradling a child.

Ms Macapagal was unruffled by the disqualification suit. "As far as the cases filed against me, these are part of the legal process and my lawyers will take care of that," she said at a press conference at the Marco Polo Davao.

The President maintained that she had been complying with the Comelec rules on airtime.

President can pardon self

Taking up the cudgels for Ms Macapagal, administration senatorial candidate Miriam Defensor-Santiago said there was no legal basis for the disqualification case.

"Assuming that she is found guilty of exceeding the time limit for television advertising, she can simply pardon herself," Santiago said.

In a statement, Santiago noted that Ms Macapagal's "constitutional power as an incumbent president allows her to grant pardon."

Time limit extended

That's why, even if convicted of the offense she could easily pardon herself, said Santiago, a former Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge.

FAMILIAR figures from the days of martial rule Juan Ponce Enrile, Francisco Tatad and Ernesto Maceda, who are the opposition's senatorial candidates, hold a press conference to denounce the alleged violation by the GMA camp of the Comelec resolution which limits a presidential candidate to 120 minutes of TV ads. JESS YUSON

The senatorial candidate explained that "even if the Comelec prosecutor decides to file the case against the President with the RTC, the judge would still have to conduct a full-dress trial which could take a year."

Santiago said the Comelec "will probably dismiss the complaint during the preliminary investigation because on Feb. 18, the body passed a resolution extending the time limit for TV ads from 120 minutes for all TV stations to 120 minutes for each TV station."

"The Comelec resolution must comply with the requirement of publication before it can take effect after publication, even (while) the preliminary investigation is still pending. The new resolution takes effect and applies retroactively, meaning the complaint would have to be dismissed," she said.

Owwa funds

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said she would resign from her post if it was proven that Overseas Workers Welfare Administration funds were transferred to Philhealth, allegedly for use in Ms Macapagal's campaign.

The allegation was first aired by Migrante International after Pro-Con(stitution) accused the heads of Philhealth and PCSO of using government funds, which could reach P6 billion, for the Greater Medical Assistance (GMA) program.

Pro-Con(stitution) said the GMA program aims to enroll 5 million poor people and their families in Philhealth as part of the election campaign of Ms Macapagal.

Sto. Tomas said the Migrante allegation was baseless.

Permit to rally

Reports about the administration party's huge election spending has alarmed actor Fernando Poe Jr. of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP). "Pity our people. I hope this is not true," Poe said in Cagayan de Oro City last week.

In Davao City, some 1,500 supporters of Bangon Pilipinas, many of them members of the Jesus is Lord Movement, staged a political rally on Monday night at Freedom Park, 100 meters from the Marco Polo Hotel where M Macapagal was staying.

The President and the entire K 4 senatorial slate were in the city in time for the Araw ng Dabaw celebrations. "We hope that the President would realize how much people are crying out for change," Villanueva said.

He appealed to the President's camp to be a "sport" in the campaign and avoid influence-peddling. The Davao City government tried to cancel the permit to rally issued to Bangon Pilipinas after learning of the President's visit on Monday.

Independent Church

In Panabo City yesterday, Ms Macapagal promised residents peace and development. She gained the support of the Philippine Independent Church when she said that the welfare of Mindanao was important in her administration.

"The bulk of the Overseas and Development Assistance (ODA) is here in Mindanao," she said. ODA consists of grants and donations from foreign donors for development projects. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil and Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Magsaysay: Original 'Man of the Masses'

From page A1

last week at the residence of Magsaysay's widow, Luz Banzon, in Mandaluyong City.

Need for heroes

The RM Award Foundation is preparing a grand portrait of the man whom it wishes to "reintroduce" to the younger generation.

The foundation, which gives the annual Magsaysay Awards as the Asian version of the Nobel Prize, has begun gathering together the personalities who lived and worked with RM in order to reconstruct an "oral history" of his much admired persona and his abbreviated presidency.

The project is intended for the youth "who hardly know him and who need heroes these days," said Abella.

"The President—along with our RM awardees—should provide a powerful example," she said.

Abella lamented that while past RM awardees had included world icons like Mother Teresa—"whom we discovered long before the Nobel Prize did"—there was still a dearth of materials popularizing their inspiring lives.

Video-docu

A video-documentary of The Guy's life and times is planned for distribution in schools nationwide in time for his birth centennial in 2007.

The video is being built around interviews with Magsaysay's children, his relatives, his surviving aides and a veteran journalist, among others.

They include Frisco San Juan, who was in charge of RM's security; his aide-de-camp Col. Jose Estrella; Conrado Estrella (no relation to Jose), his point man in agrarian reform; Ramon Binamira, his adviser on community development, and journalist Nestor Mata, the lone survivor of the fatal plane crash.

'Healthy impatience'

PDI PHOTO

THE GUY, Ramon Magsaysay, is fondly remembered on his 47th death anniversary today. He served for only three years and three months before he died at 50 in a plane crash 47 years ago.

Abueva, who has written a political biography of Magsaysay, said his subject was "unsophisticated" in the sense that he did not have the "cosmopolitan" upbringing of most Philippine presidents before him.

In his book, Abueva noted that Magsaysay had the "irritable temper" of a man who put in long hours of work, demanded "direct actions and quick response" from his aides, and stressed "official honesty and zeal."

But it was a "healthy impatience" borne out of a desire to speed up the delivery of government services to the people, Abueva explained in the interview.

Milagros Magsaysay-Valenzuela, a daughter of the late President's, spoke of a father "who was not really the preachy type" but who scrupulously conducted on his own children what now amounts to a "lifestyle check."

Valenzuela recalled how her father once insisted that she remove her big, expensive-looking pair of earrings when she was about to go out.

When she argued that they were just "fancy" earrings, her father countered: "But you are the daughter of the President. [People] will think those are real."

Media darling

Valenzuela and Abueva noted that Magsaysay, whose presidency saw the dawning of television in the country, easily became a media darling owing to his natural charisma, his 5'11" frame and his "ruggedly handsome looks."

"He would have made an action movie star at the time," Abueva quipped.

But these personal charms were backed by years of "mingling with ordinary people," both Valenzuela and Abueva pointed out.

They said Magsaysay had fought as a guerrilla officer in World War II, managed a bus company, and rose in the government service from congressman in his native Zambales to defense secretary most known for bringing communist insurgents, the Huks, back to the fold of the law.

As a politician, the "mobile, agile and restless" Magsaysay "revolutionized" the way of the election campaign, they said.

He was, they said, the first presidential candidate to go "house to house" at a time when national politicians were content with speaking in town plazas and leaving to local leaders the task of pressing the flesh in the dusty barrios.

By their account, other Magsaysay "originals" included the popularization of the *barong Tagalog* as formal wear and the "*kamayan*" style [eating with the hands] of dining al fresco, especially with the rural folk.

No comparison

Abueva disputed the lingering theory that Magsaysay came to power because he was covertly supported by the US government.

"It has no basis in history," Abueva said. "His candidacy was the decision of the bigwigs of the Nacionalista Party."

Asked what he thought of contemporary politicians who were being projected by their campaign handlers as the "next Magsaysay," Abueva retorted: "They don't know what they're talking about."

He said there was "no comparison" between RM and politicians known for "just acting all the time" or who had "not served the country at all."

'Too smart'

"I feel happy that [my father's] administration, almost half a century later, is now considered a standard in terms of good public service," said Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., the late President's only son.

Asked why he thought only a few people in the government today seemed to measure up to such a standard," the senator said: "We have to understand that these are different times.

"Maybe they have just gotten too smart, with too many Ph.D.s, that they've lost sight of their priorities—the fundamental needs of the people. Their personal agenda and official duties have apparently merged so that they have lost their sense of accountability."

Whoever wins in the presidential election "might as well look at the Magsaysay years as an example of how to do it," the senator said.

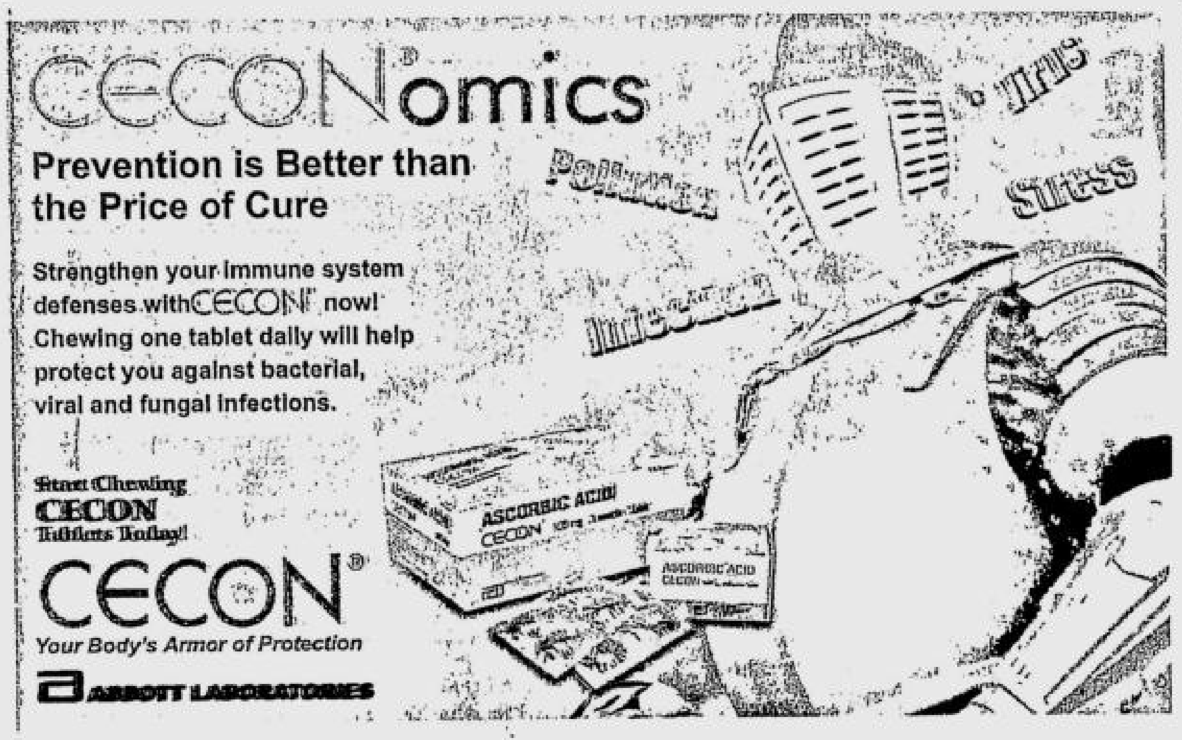
Tanong ng Bayan
InqTV
'Ngayong Alas-10 Ng Gabi

Dapat bang mag-leave of absence si GMA?

Tinutuligsa ng marami ang kapuna-punang kalamangan ni GMA. Nagagamit raw ang kaniyang puwesto, makinarya ng gobyerno at pati pondo nito sa kanyang kampanya. May mga nagmungkahi: Mag-leave of absence kaya muna si GMA?

AT: Pagtakapos, ang Part 2 ng Special Report sa mga Internet sex orgies: Imoral nga. Ilegal ba? Ngayong alas-10 ng gabi, sa InqTV on ABC-5

ABC



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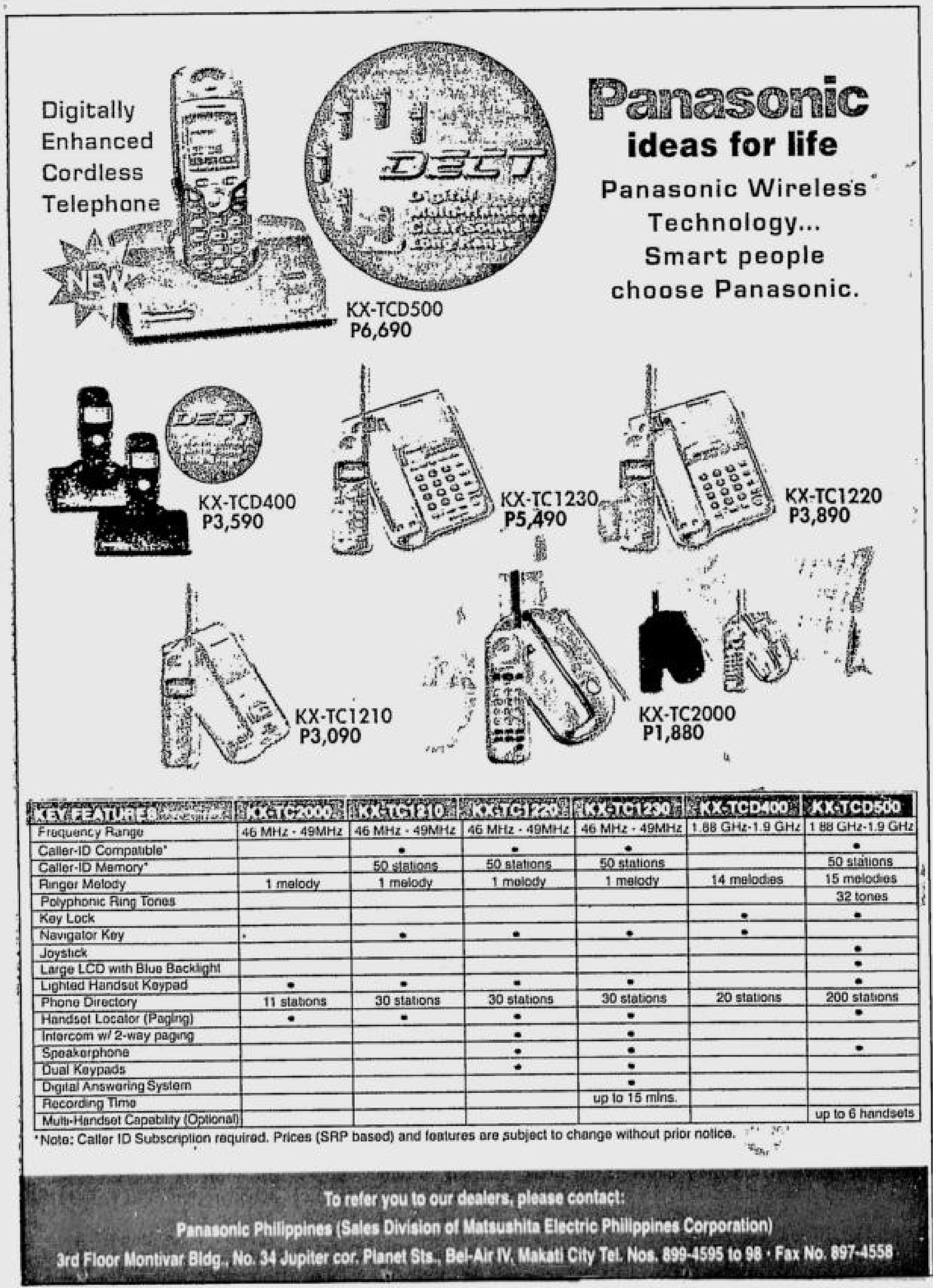

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Polyphonic Ring Tones						32 tones
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Navigator Key		•	•	•	•	
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Lighted Handset Keypad	•	•	•	•		•
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Handset Locator (Paging)	•	•	•	•		•
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Health, cell phone on mind . . .

From page A1

Only 6 percent of the children thought that "having a boyfriend or a girlfriend" was very important.

Many of the boys wanted to be doctors or engineers when they grow up (24 percent), while girls aspired to be nurses (29 percent) or teachers (24 percent).

Weekly allowance

The pioneering study also showed that 96 percent of parents gave their children an average of P109 per week, or close to P22 a day.

Children in Metro Manila received more, averaging P28 a day. Kids aged 7-8 had the least pocket money of less than P20 a day, while teenagers aged 13-14 had the most at P44 a day.

Children in homes with cable TV typically had 89 percent more pocket money than children without cable TV in their homes.

"Combining the differing weekly allowances, the total pocket money earned by kids 7-14 years old across the three surveyed areas generates a total of P20.9 billion a year," explained Duncan Norris, vice president for research of Turner International Asia Pacific Ltd., which operates Cartoon Network.

What kids buy

Most of the children spend all of their pocket money. Almost half said they would spend it on biscuits and cookies followed by fruit drinks, chips, soft drinks, candies and ice cream.

Filipino children across all socioeconomic classes are mobile phone-savvy, with two-thirds having used a mobile phone. Three out of four children who have used a mobile phone send out a text message at least once a week. As many as 25 percent send out a text message daily.

Nokia was the preferred brand with 73 percent of the children saying that it was the best.

Almost half of the children were computer users: They use it to play games, help with school work and take computer classes.

Forty-seven percent of the children used the Internet. Again, they used it to play games, for school work and to e-mail.

What kids watch

The study also revealed that watching television was the top activity outside school with 94 percent of the children claiming to watch TV daily, with radio as the next favorite medium at 16 percent.

Almost all the children or 93 percent watched cartoons, followed by a comedy series (70 percent), movies (66 percent), telenovelas (63 percent) and game/quiz shows (47 percent). News and current affairs programs were the least watched.

Cartoon Network was the preferred TV channel by 42 percent of the kids in cable TV homes. Their favorite show? The Powerpuff Girls.

Dolls remained the favorite toys for girls, while boys preferred video and computer games. Other favorite toys among children were computer games, bicycles, board games, soft toys and toy guns.

Basketball most popular

For sports, basketball was the most popular among Filipino kids with 66 percent of boys saying that basketball was their favorite sport. Girls, on the other hand, preferred to play badminton.

New Generations Philippines 2004 was the first local study commissioned by Cartoon Network. The results were based on face-to-face interviews in cable TV-equipped homes with 1,000 Filipino kids and their parents.

The research firm ACNielsen conducted the survey in the greater Manila area, Cebu and Davao in October and November last year. The results were presented to media yesterday.

Influence on parents

Morris said Filipino children below 15 years old were an important demographic, representing a third of the Filipino population that wields influence on their parents' buying habits.

"For confectionery, soft drinks and snacks, kids play a role in brand choice in 50-75 percent of the cases. For higher priced items, such as sports, shoes and clothes, a third of the kids claim they are the sole decision-makers," the study said.

"As our survey reveals, even kids as young as 7 have well-established views on everything from their favorite brand of toothpaste to the best mobile phone network. As leaders in kids' entertainment, it is important that we continue to invest in unique research studies such as New Generations Philippines that shows the trends and habits of our viewers," Morris said.

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SUERTRES
3 2 3

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
2 9 3 9 0 8

6/42 Luzon
2 8 17 27 32 42

Vis-Min
2 20 22 24 27 33

Fare hike hangs; strike poised

Transport holiday could be launched as early as Monday

By Clarissa Batino and Edson Tandoc Jr.

TRANSPORT groups have decided to go on a nationwide strike, which may take place as early as Monday, after the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) junked calls for a P1 provisional fare hike.

Officials of various jeepney and bus groups immediately met to plan their next move after LTFRB Chair Ma. Elena Bautista also suspended any action on a permanent fare hike petition for March 25.

Bautista said the decision was "held in abeyance so we could study the petition."

Emerging from the meeting of the transport groups, a source said bus groups nationwide would be "definitely" holding a transport holiday on Monday.

Metro Manila Bus Operators Association (MMBOA) president Ramon Castillo confirmed the decision to strike but was hesitant to say that it would be on Monday.

Tentative

"That is still tentative," he told the INQUIRER.

About 16,000 buses nationwide are expected to join the transport holiday.

Jeepney groups said a transport strike was imminent but refused to say exactly when.

Unlike the March 1 nationwide strike staged by the Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide (Piston), the next transport strike would be a "surprise," said the group's national president Mar Garvida.

Garvida warned that the next jeepney strike could last longer than a day.

Transport groups gave the government until yesterday to decide on their petition for an interim fare hike of P1 as the LTFRB continued to hear various demands for a permanent increase.

Bus groups are asking for a P2 hike, while jeepney groups' are seeking a P1.50 increase. Both increases would cover the first 5 kilometers.

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista said the regulatory board also decided "to hold in abeyance" any decision on jeepney groups' petition for a P1 interim fare hike.

Betrayed

"We felt so betrayed. It seems that politics is in play," said Garvida, who heads the 200,000 strong Piston. Garvida said the schedule of the jeepney strike was being discussed.

"But this time, we won't announce the day so everyone will be caught flat-footed," said the Piston president. Jeepney groups are scheduled to hold a summit next week to discuss the next course of action after the LTFRB's rejection of the P1 fare hike.

Jeepney groups asked the LTFRB to speed up the hearings by simply ordering the petitioners and oppositors on the issue of the fare hike to simply submit position papers.

The LTFRB should deliberate on the merits of the positions without having to hold any further public hearings, according to a lawyer of the jeepney groups.

"We have procedures to follow. We have to give all parties a chance to present their case," said Bautista.

Destileria says ad criticism distorted

OFFICIALS of Destileria Limtuaco remain unfazed over mounting complaints against the allegedly offensive "Kinse años" advertisements for its Napoleon Brandy product.

"Are they out of their minds or do they just have distorted eyesight?" said Destileria lawyer Bonifacio Alentajan, who saw the complaint lodged by child rights advocate was pure and simple harassment.

"There is nothing in the Napoleon billboards, ads and radio commercials which show abuse against minor and women."

Tina Santos

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Maynilad hit for 'overcharge'

A COALITION has accused the Maynilad Water Services Inc. of overcharging its customers by P8.68 per cubic meter of water.

"Maynilad has already earned P6.4 billion from these tariff mechanisms and every day, they continue to earn P7.4 million from its hapless and clueless customers," said Arnold Padilla, senior researcher of Ibon Foundation.

Ibon, a member of Water for the People Network, said the Maynilad had been collecting P4.07 per cubic meter to cover for foreign currency adjustments and P4.21 to recover loses due to the 1997 Asian crisis. These charges were only valid up to Dec. 31, 2002.

A top Maynilad official admitted that the company was still collecting these fees because it had yet to implement the rate-rebasing formula that would allow them to incorporate the peso devaluation to its tariffs.

Christine Gaylican

Guard killed in armored van rob

By Luige del Puerto

SIX ARMED robbers came with guns blazing, killing a security guard and wounding another, but fled empty-handed following a foiled armored van robbery in Mandaluyong City yesterday afternoon.

Sr. Supt. Ericson Velasquez, city police chief, said the suspects on board a van opened fire at the watchmen as they arrived at the AMA Bank on Shaw Boulevard at about 1:30 p.m.

"The robbers were armed with high-powered firearms, probably M-14 and M-16 rifles. They fired as soon as they pulled over the street," an investigator said.

Aaron Laguidam and Elmer Cormero, guards escorting the St. Claire armored van, were immediately hit.

Cormero died later at the Mandaluyong Medical Center while undergoing treatment.

AMA bank guard Tommy Villaroman reacted and fired back, prompting the suspects to shoot at him and the bank.

Bullets fired by the suspects shattered the bank' s windows.

No one was hit in the exchange of gunfire, which forced the suspects to flee without taking any money.

The police believe that the suspects were after the P5.5 million which the van was about to deposit to the bank.

Two abandoned vehicles, a gray Toyota Corolla with plate No. PSB 870 and an L-300 van with plate No. PPA 678, believed to be the suspects' getaway vehicles were later found in San Juan, Velasquez said.

The modus operandi was similar to that of the Rodriguez, Rizal, robbery barely a week ago.

The Rodriguez robbers also killed a security guard of an armored van, which was collecting the earnings of a grocery store near the public market in Barangay San Jose.

The suspects opened fire at the guards as soon as they got near the van. Two suspects were later slain by the police.

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Thailand Pedigree making dogs sick

THE LOCAL distributor of the Pedigree brand of dog food is asking its customers to stop using their product—at least for the meantime.

Master Foods Philippines Inc. said they were making the same appeal to cat lovers using the Whiskas brand food for felines.

Master Foods is recalling Pedrigree and Whiskas after dog food produced by its plant in Thailand was suspected of causing renal problems of dogs in Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The company has found traces of mold in the raw materials used at the Thailand plant in the production of the dog food.

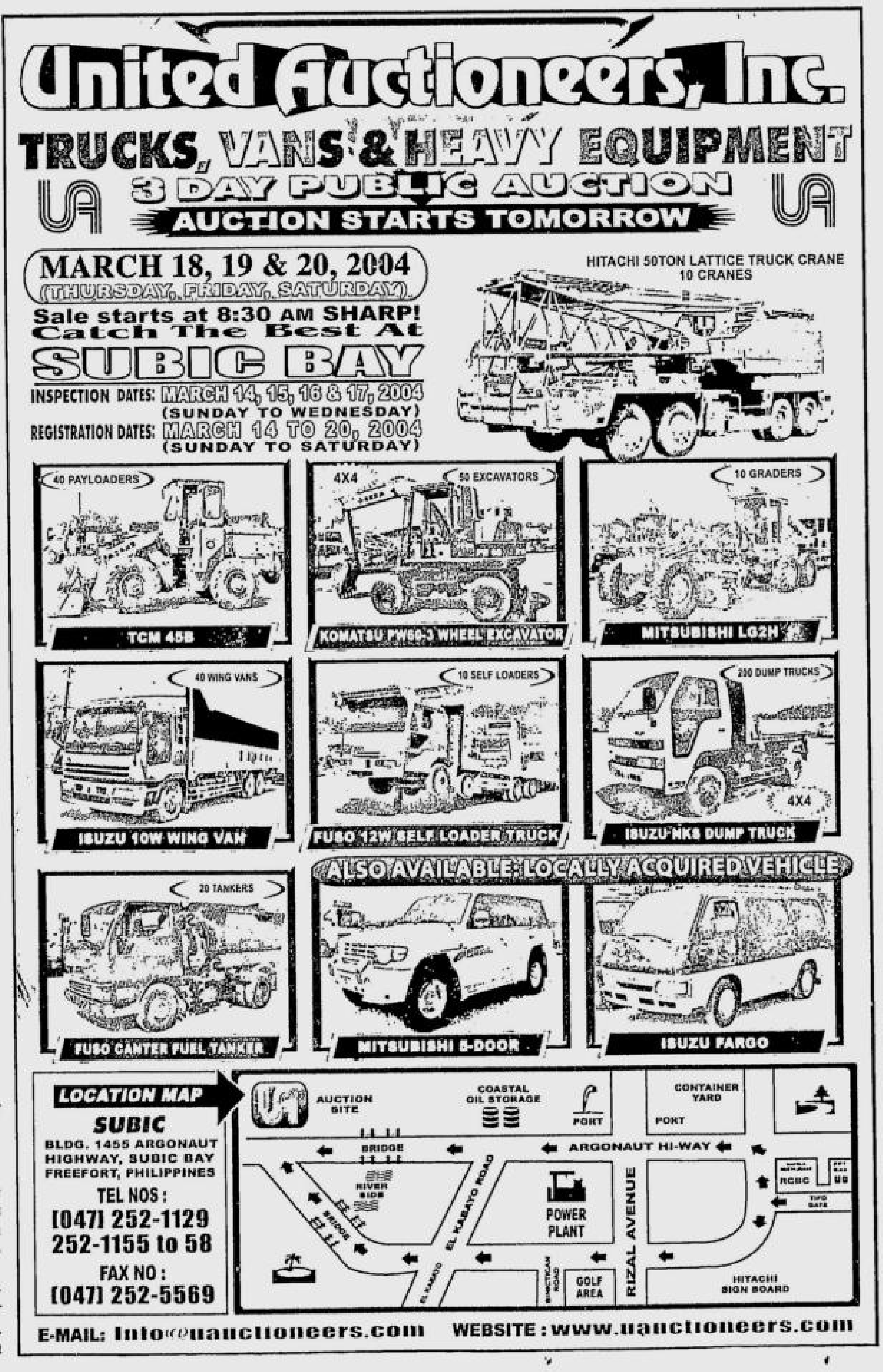
"Consumers are advised to check the label and package because only the Pedigree and Whiskas products produced in Pakchong, Thailand are covered by the recall," said Dr. Duncan Hill, regional scientific affairs manager, said in a statement.

Hill said customers should immediately consult with a veterinarian in case of changes in their pet's health.

The company said no health risks were found related to its cat food but decided to include it in the recall.

Master Foods is offering a refund for any unused products.

Christine Gaylican



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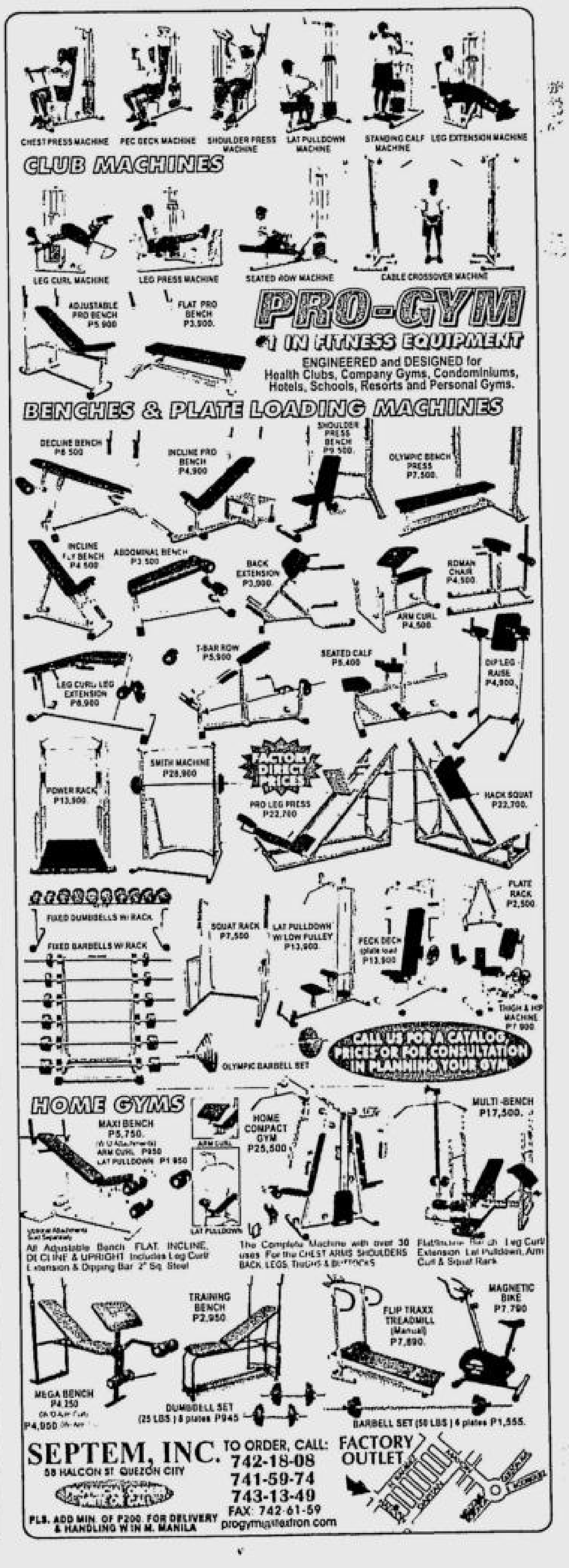

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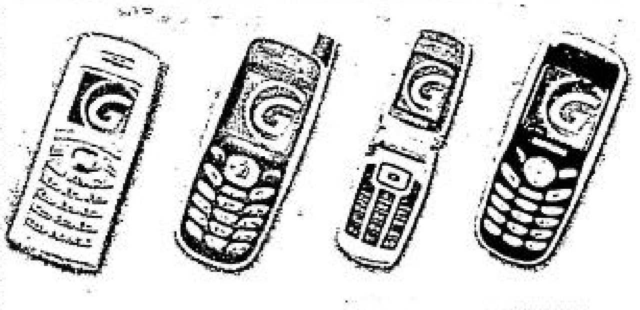

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Flex 2,500	P 2,500	350	P 4.50	P 5.50
Flex 3,500	P 3,500	400	P 4.00	P 4.50
Flex 5,000	P 5,000	400	P 4.00	P 4.50

	MSF	Free Text	Free Mins.	GHP-GHP	GHP- non-GHP
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Mix	P 800	350	100	P 5.50	P 7.00
Talk	P1,200	350	210	P 5.00	P 6.50
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2005 SEAG

GMA wants overall title

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WIN the overall championship in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games!

"That's her agenda for Philippine sports," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain yesterday in announcing President Macapagal-Arroyo's instruction to pull out all stops in dominating next year's SEAG during the PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion.

MACAPAGAL

"I want the Philippines to be No. 1 again in Southeast Asia. From there, we go to the Asian Games and all the way to the Olympics," Buhain quoted the President as saying.

"She just called up yesterday morning with the instructions to exhaust all means to win the SEA Games overall title next year," added Buhain, who confidently stated that the overall title is not only possible but is "in fact ours for the taking."

"With our fellow Filipinos cheering our athletes right on our local soil and with the same or probably more effort spent on training than our neighboring countries, I don't see any reason we can't take the overall championship," said Buhain.

"The President knows that this is the best opportunity for us to become overall champion because our turn to host the SEAG might not come in the next 15 years."

The Chief Executive, according to Buhain, keeps tabs on what's happening in Philippine sports.

"She told us to start with winning the SEA Games next year before the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar," he said.

"Our ultimate goal is the gold medal in Beijing Olympics in 1998."

Nevertheless, the PSC chief said it won't hold back on the country's preparation for the Athens Olympics this August.

Tasked to prepare the national athletes seeing action in 2005, the agency is looking at spending P350 million for its "Golden 500" who will train here and abroad.

Buhain said the Philippines is capable of bagging 115 golds from a total of 400 medals up for grabs in 2005.

The PSC chief said the current SEA Games trend favors the host country, considering that four of the last five countries that hosted the biennial event went on to win the overall plum.

Thailand started the trend in 1995 by winning the overall title in Chiang Mai. Indonesia won two years later in Jakarta. Malaysia's turn to shine came in 2001 in Kuala Lumpur before Vietnam joined the bandwagon last year when it hosted the Games for the first time.

The country's best finish in the SEA Games was second overall in Manila in 1991, when the RP squad—which had Buhain as one of the most prolific swim winners then—lost the title by a single gold.

Indonesia snared 92 golds as against the Philippines' 91 after an Indon women's marathoner won the very last event of the competition.

Meanwhile, the Special Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) expressed its support to the President's directive as majority of the national athletes are members of the military.

"Most of the Filipino athletes are army men," said Capt. Octavio Pabuayon, chief of the AFP Special Services.

Around 147 national athletes come from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. *With a report from Trina Ibarle*

A FORLORN Rosales leaves the officials' tent complaining of a painful right wrist.
PHOTO BY NESTOR MENDOZA

Hurting wrist puts Rosales' LPGA season in jeopardy

By Jong Arcano

A FRAGILE "W" is hampering the bid for the Big "W" of Jenny Rosales early in the LPGA season.

And unless a series of treatments and therapeutic sessions take the pain off the hurting right wrist of Rosales, the Philippine pride in the LPGA Tour may be forced to withdraw from a tournament for the second straight week.

Nestor Mendoza, a member of Team Rosales, told the INQUIRER yesterday that apart from the stomach cramps that hounded Jenny during the Welch's/Fry's event last week in Tucson, Arizona, a recurring wrist injury was also to blame.

Rosales felt something snap as she tried to get out of a plugged-ball lie on the lip of the greenside bunker of the ninth hole in her first round. She immediately had an ultrasound at the Fitness Trailer of the LPGA after the game but the results proved negative.

Despite an acupuncture treatment and continuous therapy for a week, Rosales still felt some pain on her wrist and has been advised to take extra caution or face the prospect of seriously aggravating the injury.

Rosales will play the pro-am of the Phoenix Safeway International but with little expectations because of the situation.

"It's a recurring injury and she knows she has to be really careful," Mendoza said.

Uy patience rewarded with kart win

CARMONA—Allan Uy of Birel-A3 Motorsports proved it pays to never give up.

With defending champion and heavily favored Michelle Bumgarner wrestling with a new engine, Uy captured the kickoff leg of the Shell Karting Superseries 2004 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines Sunday.

Matteo Guidicelli of Team CRG-Cebu seemed to have the race all locked up with a seven-second lead going into the last three laps, but a flat tire slowed him down, allowing Uy and Marlon Stockinger to grab the top two spots.

Uy claimed the checkered flag in 17 minutes 52.045 seconds while Stockinger, who showed a big improvement from last year, came in 3.249 seconds behind at the end of the 20-lap race sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Eastway Motorcycle Racing and Denso Iridium Power.

Guidicelli finished third, clocking 17:57.409.

Bumgarner of M&M Racing couldn't get the most out of her new engine and wound up fourth. Her younger brother, Mark, was fifth.

Mike Tuason and Dave Tinio completed a victory double for Tuason Racing-Addict Mobile by topping the Expert and Novice divisions, respectively, in the Formula 125 Rotax Max.

Tuason ruled the 20-lap Expert class against Tim Gosnel and third placer Manny Sy of Primus Racedevils. Tinio won over Maico Angeles of Primus Racedevils and Paul Duillet.

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Coach Lipa's back in the pro league

FEDEX Express hopes to resuscitate its lethargic PBA campaign with the arrival of multititled Joe Lipa as team consultant.

Lipa, a former Shell coach, was hired only for three months, so his schedule won't run in conflict with his stint as head coach of the Philippine 20-and-under team to the 4th ABC Young Men's championship in September in Teheran, Iran.

"We believe that his wisdom and wealth of experience will serve the team in good stead," said Lito Alvarez, FedEx team manager.

True enough, Lipa was warmly received by the coaching staff and the players, some of whom have been under his wings in the RP team, when he presided over the Express' practice at the Makati Coliseum yesterday.

Lipa, who steered an all-amateur Philippine team that included Express Jerry Codiñera to third place in the 1986 Asian Games in Seoul, said he hopes to infuse fresh ideas to the Express coaching staff composed of head coach Bonnie Garcia and deputies Johnny Tam, Joel Villa and Ching Marcelino.

"I'll be an input-giver and I'll punch holes on their (coaching staff) ideas," said Lipa, who piloted the Philippines to the 1995 SEA Games basketball title in Thailand.

Roy Luarca

Alaska, TNT face winless teams today

ALASKA knows it will be dealing with a young but aggressive frontline when the Aces take on the FedEx Express today in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

But with the Express' inexperience in the shaded lane, Alaska coach Tim Cone predicts easy sailing for the Aces in their 4:45 p.m. encounter.

"Young frontline. They rely on their rookies a lot in the paint so my veteran players should take advantage of the situation," said Cone after beating the Shell Turbochargers over the weekend to improve to 3-1.

Talk 'N Text also tries to keep pace with the Aces when it battles Sta. Lucia in the main game at 7:10 p.m.

The Phone Pals, who failed to survive San Miguel Beer and Art Long, try to recover lost ground against Sta. Lucia's Derrick Brown, Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino.

Kenneth Duremdes, who strained his knee at the start of the conference, will again play limited minutes to help bail the Realtors out of a 0-4 record.

Sophomore John Ferriols and Omanzie Rodriguez are the senior citizens on the Express' frontline that also boasts of rookies Marc Pingris, Ranidel de Ocampo and Wesley Gonzales.

These guys will have to put up with seasoned players Ali Peek, Don Allado, EJ Feihl and rookie Joachim Thoss not to mention Mike Cortez, Brandon Cablay, Rob Duat and import Galen Young.

Unless Mike Maddox, who replaced Alvin Jefferson, makes a whale of a difference, the Express will have their hands full trying to crash into the win column.

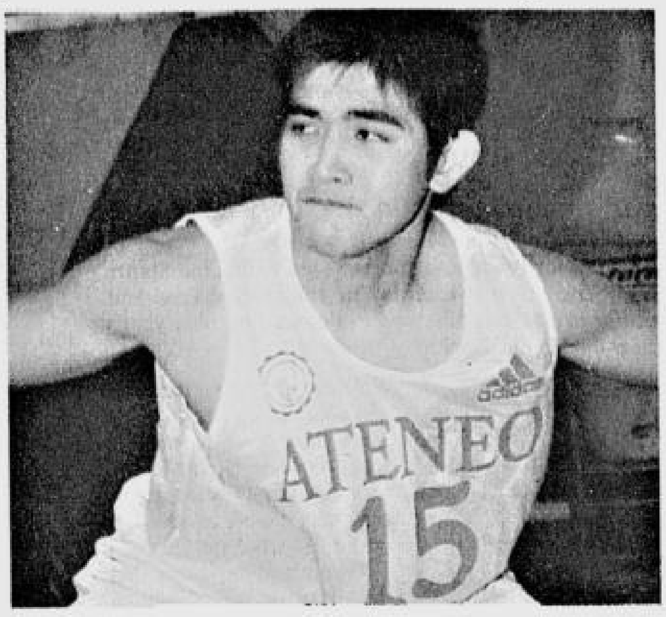
Listed as 6-foot-8, Maddox played alongside Purefoods import Eddie Elisna at Georgia Tech.

"We are quite fortunate with the schedule. We took on Shell without an import to contend with and now FedEx has brought in a new import who has yet to blend with his teammates," said Cone.

June Navarro

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	4	0
Alaska	3	1
Talk 'N Text	3	1
Coca-Cola	3	1
Ginebra	3	2
Red Bull	2	2
Purefoods	2	3
Shell	1	4
FedEx	0	3
Sta. Lucia	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:45 p.m.—Alaska vs FedEx
7:10 p.m.—SLR vs TNT



EAGLE RETURNS AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Look who's back in blue and white! BJ Manalo, the standout point guard of three champion La Salle Green Archers teams in the UAAP, has returned to Ateneo where he once helped the Blue Eaglets, along with Enrico Villanueva, win a junior crown. Manalo, who is taking a master's degree at the Loyola campus, will play for Lee Pipes-Ateneo in the PBL. He's still mulling another stint with the Eagles in the UAAP.

Burlington supports RP Seaba squad

SYNONYMOUS with socks, Burlington is now identified with Philippine Youth caging as well.

Burlington Industries Phils. Inc. yesterday reiterated its full support to the team bidding to regain the Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) 18-and-under crown set April 14-19 at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

"We in Burlington have always been supportive of youth and sports, more so if it's a national endeavor," said Burlington president Pete Tan. "This is part of our corporate mission and vision."

Burlington GM Ruddy Tan said he would like to see the RP-Burlington Youth team bounce back from its fourth-place finish in the 2002 edition won by the Malaysians in Kuala Lumpur.

Coached by Johnny Tam, the 2002 RP five was represented by a ragtag, hastily assembled squad after several schools prevented their key players from leaving at the last minute.

But Burlington, which also manufactures the Bally, Puma, Slazenger and Camp brand of socks, has made sure that Tam won't be shorthanded this time.

First, Burlington sponsored a Tuklas Taas program last year to discover tall, potential players for the national pool, and then it bankrolled the renovation of the basketball players' quarters at the Rizal Memorial Complex. Burlington also assured logistical support to the 17-man pool formed by Tam and deputy coach Ching Marcelino.

SPORTSWATCH

48 vying in Samsung Putting Challenge

NATIONAL finalists in the second Samsung Putting Challenge slated Thursday at the practice greens of the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course in Lipa City will get a chance to win the newest models of Samsung television sets and DVD players. A total of 48 qualifiers, 30 in the regular putting competition and another 18 in the hole-in-one side-event, from the six-leg national eliminations vie for prizes that include a projection TV, 25-inch flat TV, 21-inch flat TVs and DVD players. The Samsung Putting Challenge, an accompanying event of the Samsung Amateur Tour set Thursday and Friday, starts at 1 p.m. Both events are co-sponsored by Mario's Restaurant, Wilson, Gatorade, Tokyo Tokyo, Microtel, Custom Clubmakers, Rogin-E and Dunlop Golf. National team standout Juvic Pagunsan will be eyeing a double as he is in the championship division of the Amateur Tour and the men's category of the Putting Challenge. Boy Blue Ocampo, who heads the organizing Professional Sports Management Group, said that the national qualifiers are expected to check in today.

Clash of champs to rock PPBL tonight

TWO reigning champions attempt to prove their worth when they clash at 9 p.m. today in an interesting final elimination round encounter in the 2004 Philippine Pro-Boxing League National Invitational junior bantamweight championship. RP junior bantam champ Eric "The Maverick" Barcelona goes up against current PBF junior bantam king Roselito "Tornado" Campana in a fight anticipated by many pundits as a slam-bang encounter. Supported by Tanduay Rhum and Lactovitale, the fight will be seen at 9 tonight on IBC-13.

Big winner-take-all pot at Santa Ana Park

A HEFTY carryover amount of P1,017,572.22 will be at stake today in the popular Winner-Take-All event at the Santa Ana Park after the Philippine Racing Club Inc. (PRCI) rescheduled for a day the holding of its first WTA event for the week to give racing fans greater chances of hitting the WTA jackpot. The huge WTA carryover amount was a result of PRCI's March 7 race card, which produced no winner for the second WTA betting pool. PRCI came up with two Pick-Six events for its opening-day card yesterday and will conduct its first WTA event for the week today to provide the public ample time to study the WTA race lineups. The PRCI has scheduled no less than six PRCI Invitational Races this week featuring top gallopers.

Las Piñas derby features 50 fights

MORE than 50 fights spice up another exciting 3-cock derby sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor tonight at the Las Piñas Coliseum. For an entry fee of P5,500, the cash prize at stake is P300,000, said derby host Jover Dilao of Jhezil Farms. Next Wednesday, the tandem of Yoyoy and Vhon Agiwin will host another 3-cock event with the same format. Meanwhile, the BRBL 5-Cock Derby slated on March 27 has so far lured at least 30 well-known big-time cockers. Derby hosts are veteran Boy de Roca of Batangas and Boy Royo of Rizal. For inquiries, contact 873-1040.

PCCA 5-cocker Round 2 under way today

THE SECOND round of the P1-million PCCA 5-Cock Derby gets going at 7 tonight at the Pasay City Cockpit with Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsors. PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric de la Rosa and Butchoy Olano said 12 of the 56 entries in last Monday's first elimination round posted two points each. They were Rey Briones, Luding Bocaling, FTE Group, Arman Santos (Surplus Jade and Tomtom Jade), Blandy Tolentino, ASF Group, Bobby Cabillion, Pepito Ngo, Jack Milbert, Henry Salumbre and Raymond Velayo. For inquiries, call 843-01746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

ARCHERY OFFICIALS—National Archery Association of the Philippines president Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner (right) and secretary general-treasurer Ligaya P. Manalang take their oath of office before Court of Appeals Justice Remedios Salazar Fernando (left) recently. Dr. Brawner succeeded Brig. Gen. Marlowe Pedregosa.

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PSC: Unanswered questions

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

OBVIOUSLY we can't choose our sports leaders.

This is in answer to puzzled people who wonder, quite innocently, why we continue to suffer the slew of dumb political appointees who chart the national sports destiny.

Sorry, but like in the case of relatives, we are not granted the luck and authority to choose our sports leaders.

Yes, we're fortunate to have the likes of Manny Pacquiao and Efren "Bata" Reyes, two sporting treasures who continue to make the Pinoy proud and happy with their golden exploits.

But Bata Reyes and Pacquiao, it has to be said again, did not emerge from our so-called national sports program.

They were both products of their native kitchens.

***

Look, if sports leaders were as zealous in developing future champions as they are in holding on to their posts, the quest for our first Olympic gold medal would have ended decades ago.

You wonder why I said that?

Here's a peep into the heart and mind of one top Filipino sports official.

Year 1983. Venue: the Singapore Southeast Asian Games.

Said our over-excited man: "Wow! I never thought it would be this great. Terrific! Everything is free, limousine service, hotel, plane fare. *May* pocket money *pa, nakakagulat, sarap talaga.*"

The RP official, with the moustache of Saddam Hussein and the dumb stare of an overfed ox, did not have to say it. But, right there and then, following the heavenly discovery, it was obvious that he made it the main point of his loose existence to stay in his post.

He has remained a zero performer.

Not satisfied with the free travel, the wholesale holiday perks, (yes, he's still the useless head of his NSA) he's now threatening to shoot for a top slot in the national sports hierarchy.

***

Dumbness is a major necessity for most sports officials to remain in their position?

Not exactly.

There could be other rotten factors needed for useless people to remain in power.

Like maybe being a favorite relative of a cunning top power in the military.

Just look at the setup around the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, seat of power in RP sports.

It's not plain incompetence that's being perpetrated by top officials of the government sports agency funding alleged sports development in the country.

The gross mismanagement prevailing in the system is nothing short of obscene.

Malacañang need not be told the Philippine Sports Commission is grossly mismanaged.

The other day, three people representing over 40 PSC employees who had been sacked cried foul.

It's like this: When the sacked PSC employees went to the GSIS to seek emergency loans, they discovered that, despite regular pay deductions, their contributions to the government insurance agency have not been remitted.

A check with the Pag-Ibig Fund and Philhealth, the protesters claimed, also bared that the poor employees were not qualified for any benefits.

***

The fellows carrying the fight for the sacked PSC workers said some of the jobless guys were being rehired, but only through the *padrino* and *palakasan* system.

The protesters said most of those who had been fired had served in the government agency for over 10 years, although mostly on contractual basis.

Also brought out in the open was the failure of many NSAs to pay their Meralco bills, thus causing sectional power outages around the sports complex and at the Philsports in Pasig.

Other NSAs, the protesters added, were forced to tap electricity from neighboring offices.

Well, these maladies could all be part of the belt-tightening resorted to by the PSC, as the presidential polls near.

It's no secret that, despite vehement opposition, the national pool of athletes had been drastically reduced.

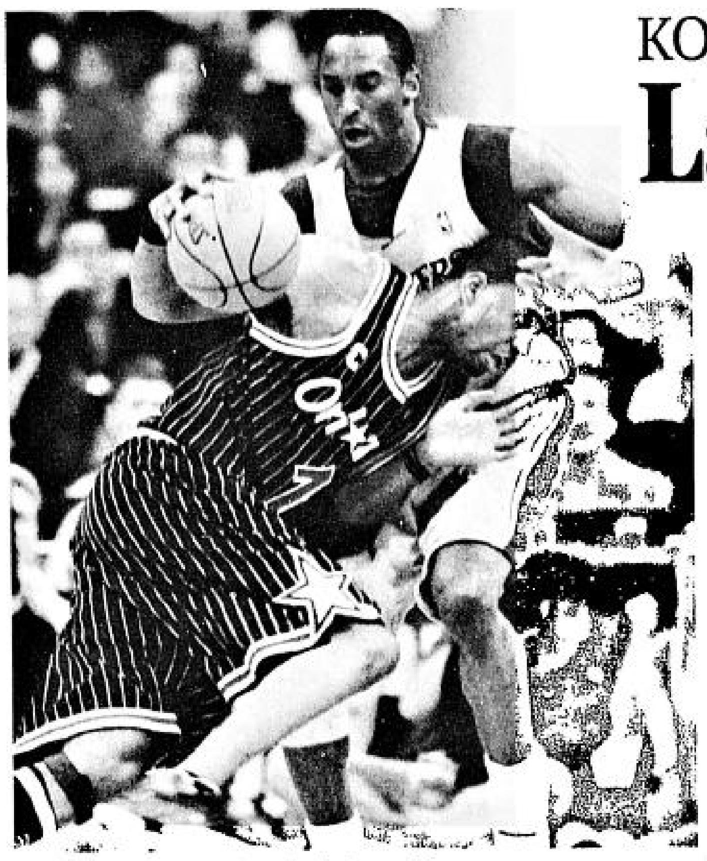
PSC doesn't have the money.

The government agency, with the pitiful state of affairs out there, appears bankrupt.

But the show goes on, PSC rolls on "like a loose ball."

The question of the hour, raised by one pundit who hides behind the name Pedro Pandoy, is: Who gets rich in the PSC?

We've very limited space today, but we promise to print his incisive, revealing letter next time.



MCGRADY (left) runs into the defense of Bryant. REUTERS

KOBE TO THE RESCUE

Lakers zap Magic

NEW YORK—Kobe Bryant shook off a shoulder injury to score 38 points, 24 of them in the fourth quarter, as the Los Angeles Lakers staged a dramatic rally to beat the Orlando Magic, 113-110, in overtime on Monday.

Shaquille O'Neal had 27 points and 22 rebounds for the Lakers, but it was Bryant's second half heroics that led Los Angeles to victory.

The Magic stormed into a 61-50 halftime advantage and led by as many as 19 points in the third quarter, but the home side staged a furious fourth quarter fightback to force overtime.

Bryant had just one point in the first half and was clearly laboring with the injury as Tracy McGrady outscored him 21-1.

But Los Angeles blitzed Orlando 29-14 in the final frame as Bryant tied a franchise record for points in a quarter set by Elgin Baylor in 1960 and equaled two years later by Jerry West.

Orlando nearly won the game on a desperation last second shot by McGrady that went in as time expired in regulation but officials ruled he did not get the shot off before the buzzer.

The teams traded baskets for most of the extra period before Gary Payton's three-pointer with 1:44 left put the Lakers ahead, 113-110, and it turned out to be the game's final basket.

Payton added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Lakers (44-23).

Complete results:Phoenix 99, Houston 97; Golden State 97, San Antonio 80; LA Lakers 113, Orlando 110 (OT).

Andre, Andy win, but Lleyton loses

INDIAN WELLS, California—Andy Roddick avenged his Australian Open loss to Marat Safin, and two-time defending champion Lleyton Hewitt was eliminated by Juan Ignacio Chela in Monday's third round of the Pacific Life Open.

The 21-year-old Roddick beat Safin for the first time in their three matches, taking a 7-6 (6), 6-2 victory on a scorching afternoon when temperatures reached 102 degrees for the second day in a row.

"It only felt like 101," Roddick quipped.

Chela, an Argentine ranked No. 34, defeated the ninth-ranked Hewitt, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1.

Andre Agassi, who turns 34 next month, looked as sharp as ever in a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Dominik Hrbaty in their night match. AP

Ballroom dancing event to watch in 2005 SEAG

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DANCESPORT, also known as ballroom dancing in high society circles, is one of the new events in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games where Filipino athletes are expected to win the most number of gold medals.

Even though it hardly gets special appreciation like basketball, it is one sport where the small but graceful Filipino is likely to excel because talented teen dance athletes like John Erolle Melencio, Rener Mercado, Judity Anne Melencio, Krystel Tadeo, Dearlie Gerodias and Brian Joseph and Karla Ocana are very much around to provide the needed support to veteran internationalists Bong Marquez, Belinda Adora, John Co, Ednah Ledesma, Jerswin and Ann Poloyapoy, Luis Miguel III and Luzviminda Artuz.

"These athletes are among our strongest bets to bring honors to our country," said Becky Garcia, president of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, adding that some of these Filipino dance athletes, in particular Filipino Latin dancers, are ranked among the best in the Asia-Pacific region. "We never have anything like this," Garcia added proudly. "We are still a young group, yet our dancers are already making waves in the international scene."

"Dancesport has finally arrived," said DSCP chair lawyer Noel Laman in a recent interview. "Furthermore," added vice president Jun Herrera, "we expect our dance athletes to perform even better and win more medals because they now have their own training center at the Philsports Complex, courtesy of the Philippine Sports Commission."

Indeed, the future augurs well for dancesport in the country.

On Saturday, March 20, the council will conduct the DSCP First Quarter Ranking and Competitions at the Philsports Arena, with more than 100 dance couples participating. It is the first of a series of local tournaments for 2004 as part of the council's preparations for next year's SEA Games. Also on tap are RP stints in several international events scheduled in Tokyo, Bangkok, Yakustuk, Russia; Hong Kong, Singapore, Gold Coast, Australia; Seoul, Barcelona, Taipei, Shanghai, Christchurch, New Zealand; and Melbourne.

Dancesport continues to prosper here because of the support of both the public and private sectors, notably from well-meaning individuals and business firms with hearts of gold. For example, Saturday's competitions will be bankrolled by the PSC, chaired by Eric Buhain; the Philippine Olympic Committee, headed by Celso Dayrit; Alaxan FR, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, ABC 5, Water Zone and Petron Corp.

The only dancesport group recognized by the POC, the DSCP board is composed of Noel Laman, chair; Ms Garcia, president; Jun Herrera, vice president; Jo Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala, treasurer and directors Andy Fornier, Marvie Yulo, Prof. Naomi Enriquez, Edward Hayco, Tonete Lagdameo, Gen. Sonny Yan, Ruby Co, Emma Nieto, Chona Mercado and Joel Ocsena.

On Sunday, March 28, the council and the Quezon City Park Development Foundation headed by lawyer Charito Planas are holding a ballroom dancing "graduation blowout" at the QC Memorial Circle starting at 6 p.m. For more details, call Ana Faye at 752-0435 to 36.

RACING

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Race 2--1. Day Break 2. Playing With Fire 3. Concorde 4. Cuadro de Alas

Race 3--1. Black Gold 2. Silver Dollar 3. Magical Charm 4. Lucky Beat 5. Gold Honors

Race 4--1. Brenda Starr 2. Classic Model 3. True Mighty

Race 5--1. Nothing to Declare 2. Money Man 3. Native Land 4. Forever Joyce 5. Maralex

Race 6--1. Ann's Magic 2. Pride of Mandaue 3. Blitzkrieg 4. Mercurian

Race 7--1. Star Worth/Hello Happy 2. Native Prince 3. Aya's Star 4. Shining Lance 5. Queen of Gaia

Race 8--1. Friendly Lover 2. Power and Might 3. Shotgun Banjo 4. Gold and Star 5. Battle Tested

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NISSAN

SENATORIAL candidate Bong Revilla and wife Lani Mercado

TELEVISION executive Charo Santos-Concio and Jinggoy Estrada

SENATOR Tito Sotto and vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda

THE GROOM'S parents, Eddie Guitierrez and Liza Lorena

GUTIERREZ-SANCHEZ NUPTIALS

It's a boy for Tonton, Glydel

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of actor Tonton Gutierrez that his bride, actress Glydel Mercado, was four months pregnant during their wedding on Monday night, was no surprise to their guests. But the news still drew cheers from the well-wishers at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati City.

"We tried to keep it a secret but my dad blew it," he smiled, referring to Eddie Gutierrez's earlier speech in which he said he was proud to be a grandfather again.

The wedding was held at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, also in Makati City, where another celebrity couple, Congressman Jules Ledesma and actress Assunta de Rossi, tied the knot on Sunday night.

"In a few months, we will be parents," the groom declared. "Liza's four months on the family way and it's a boy."

Glydel, Flordeliza Sanchez in real life, shared her husband's joy but imparted only a few words of thanks.

Politicians, stars

The wedding started 30 minutes after its 3 p.m. schedule. Glydel dramatically appeared in the church amid billowing smoke. The red carpet nearly disappeared as Glydel walked down the aisle in a voluminous ivory gown with a 30-meter-long tulle train.

The principal sponsors were led by Senators Vicente Sotto III, Loren Legarda, John Osmeña and Noli de Castro, with former First Lady Imelda Marcos and presidential candidate Ping Lacson.

But Osmeña, De Castro and Lacson were not present.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, Governor AlFrancis Bichara, Jamby Madrigal and Jinggoy Estrada were the other politicians in the list.

Show biz luminaries who are close to the couple, were part of the 21 pairs of principal sponsors, among them Lolit Solis, Tonton's longtime manager and German Moreno, who gave Glydel a break in his show, "That's Entertainment."

Network executives Charo Santos-Concio, Jimmy Duavit and Wilma Galvante represent the two media groups that the couple has worked for.

Rory Quintos and Trina Dayrit were Tonton's directors in the soap opera, "Pangako sa 'Yo."

Best men were the groom's brother Ramon Christopher Gutierrez and friends Melchor Simpao Jr., Dr. Roberto Garcia Jr. and Jude Estrada.

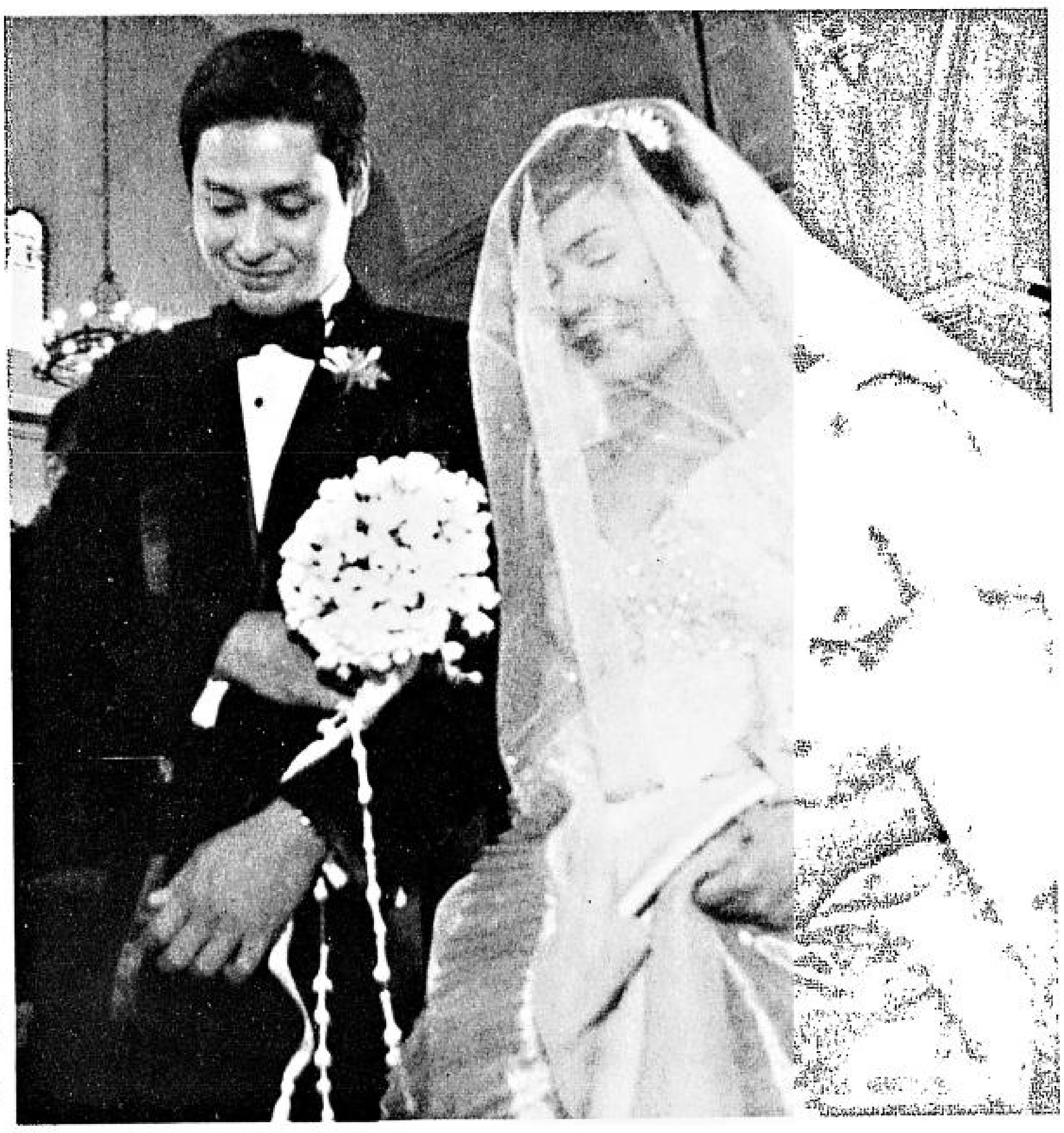
The maids of honor were Tonton's sister Jill Wednesday Ann Winsett, choreographer Maribeth Bichara, Melody Camiling and Wesy Quisumbing.

Taking the risk

Secondary sponsors were Susan and Josh Ampil (candle), Lorna Tolentino and Rudy Fernandez (veil) and Lani Mercado and Bong Revilla (cord).

Albert Martinez, Sandy Cotoco and Nani Pascuguin were groomsmen, while Annette Coronel, Lotlot de Leon and director Mae Cruz were bridesmaids.

Gifts were given to the couple in the offertory by Josephine Canonizado and Tonton's brother Richard Gutierrez (candles), Jodi Santamaria and Sarji Ruiz (flowers), Mae Gorospe and Raymond Gorospe (fruits), Eula Valdez and Jericho Rosales (water and wine), and Nadia Montenegro and Jomari Yllana (chalice).



TEARY-EYED bride Glydel and a beaming Tonton as they walk down the aisle

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

JUDE Ejercito and Tonton exchange pleasantries while waiting for the bride.

MAMAS Anabel Rama and Imelda Marcos looking poised and elegant in their ecru gowns and bouquet of roses

Rev. Fr. Mariano P. Agruda III was the officiating priest.

"It's no joke to get married these days but I'm glad that you are taking the risk," he told the couple.

Christopher de Leon did the first reading, Mandy Ochoa the responsorial psalm, Snooky Serna the second reading and Eric Quizon the Prayers of the Faithful.

P1-M wedding gown

Arielle Agasang designed both the bride's gown and the groom's black tuxedo, and the outfits of some of the godparents and other members of the entourage. The bride's European-inspired empire gown is made of ivory Thai silk, trimmed with organdy pleats and natural *jusi*, that were cut on the bias.

The gown was studded with Aurora boreali, seed pearls, cut beads and rhinestones. Thousands of Swarovski crystals adorned the 30-meter-long train.

Real gems were also used on the gown, which cost the couple a little over a P1 million, Agasang explained to INQUIRER Entertainment. He said he's been dressing up Glydel since 1993. The actress gave him a free hand in designing the gown.

The couple also wore Agasang in the reception. Glydel was in a white poncho over a tube dress, while Tonton was in another black tuxedo.

The wedding ceremony lasted for an hour. Cocktails were served before the dinner reception, which was a six-course meal.

The couple's friends like Ima Castro, with her British husband, and Jan Marini sang. Maribeth danced the tango with a partner. Lani Misalucha was the special performing guest.

Tonton and Glydel's badminton buddies, Ruby Rodriguez and Cody Moreno, hosted the program.

Testimonials interspersed with the entertainment numbers.

"Be happy. Grow together. *'Wag n'yo akong gayahin!"* advised Ramon Christopher, who has separated from his wife of 13 years, Lotlot de Leon.

Eddie Gutierrez also lauded the couple's acting prowess and prided all of his sons.

"They worked hard for what they have now," he said.

Tight security

Tonton is Eddie's son by actress Liza Lorena. Ramon Christopher, by singer Pilita Corrales. He also has six children with wife Annabel Rama, including actors Ruffa and Richard. He has five grandchildren from Ramon Christopher and one from Ruffa, who is expecting another child.

As in most weddings, the single men and women played it coy during the garter and bouquet throwing. In the end, it was Ramon Christopher who put the garter around Maribeth's leg.

The ceremonial wedding cake was by Penk Ching of Pastry Bin. The Wedding Store was the coordinator, their staff noticeable in black (with a white underclothes) outfits.

The ABS-CBN crew was also in black. Fortunately, they failed to dampen the colorful flower arrangements of Robert Blancaflor.

Just like in Jules' and Assunta's wedding, security was tight in the Gutierrez-Sanchez nuptials. It was also exclusively covered by ABS-CBN for airing.

But Tonton is currently seen on Channel 7's soap opera, "Pangako sa 'Yo." Most of his costars and a couple of his network bosses were there. But GMA 7's crew was nowhere to be found in the church and in the hotel.

BEFORE they are proclaimed man and wife, Tonton and Glydel listen intently to what the officiating priest has to say about the sanctity of marriage.

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MOVIEWORLD

Arty-party, cockeyed optimist and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How are you taking all of the criticism that you have been getting recently?

Guest: Well, I'm strong, so I can take it. And I know I'm right, so they can't affect me. *Ang ayaw ko lang, pag binabastos ako ng mga* under the belt!

(Ay, under the belt!)

* * *

Host: Describe what to you a good president should be.

Guest: To me, a good president should be like a good shepherd ready to lay down his flock for his sheep!

(One-track mind!)

* * *

Host: Since you're a fitness buff, what to you is the best kind of exercise that you can recommend to our viewers out there?

Guest: To me, nothing beats using an exercise machine in a gym—*talagang nakaka*-improve once *naka*-step in *ka*!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: What kind of movie do you go for?

Guest: I like drama and comedy about real people, I don't go for those experimental movies that are arty-party!

(*Ay*, arty-party!)

* * *

Host: You have a nice restaurant. What do you recommend most about the place, for patrons to really enjoy?

Guest: Of course, above all, they should eat the delicious food, the music, and even our friendly waiters and waitresses!

(Attention, cannibals!)

* * *

Host: What kind of hairstyle would you suggest to our model here, to enhance her beauty?

Guest: To enhance her beauty, my advice for her hair is hairy *lang*.

Host: Your beauty parlor is doing so well in the Philippines. Are you thinking of expanding to other countries?

Guest: Of course, in due time, we will expand in the abroad, in the outside!

(Lotsa luck!)

* * *

Host: The surveys haven't all that promising for your candidacy. Why do you think you will win?

Guest: I will definitely win not in the survey, but because of the number my members!

(Cockeyed optimist!)

* * *

Host: Are you sure? The surveys just don't support your statements—

Guest: Oh, believe me, I cansured *kung walang manalo ako kung walang dayaan*!

(Promise, ha?)

'Peter Pan'

THE latest live-action film about Peter Pan has young Jeremy Sumpter playing the title role. This is a big switch, because Peter Pan is usually played by an adult actress.

Peter's nemesis, Capt. James Hook, is portrayed by Jason Isaacs ("Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets").

Director-writer P.J. Hogan's film is a merry mix of depraved pirates, malicious mermaids, a monstrous yet comical crocodile, and the enchanted world of Neverland.

Technologically, the time has never been better to tell this story on the big screen. Thus, despite the fact that J.M. Barrie's tale has been put on film a number of times before, Hogan's version could come up with some visual surprises and marvels of its own!

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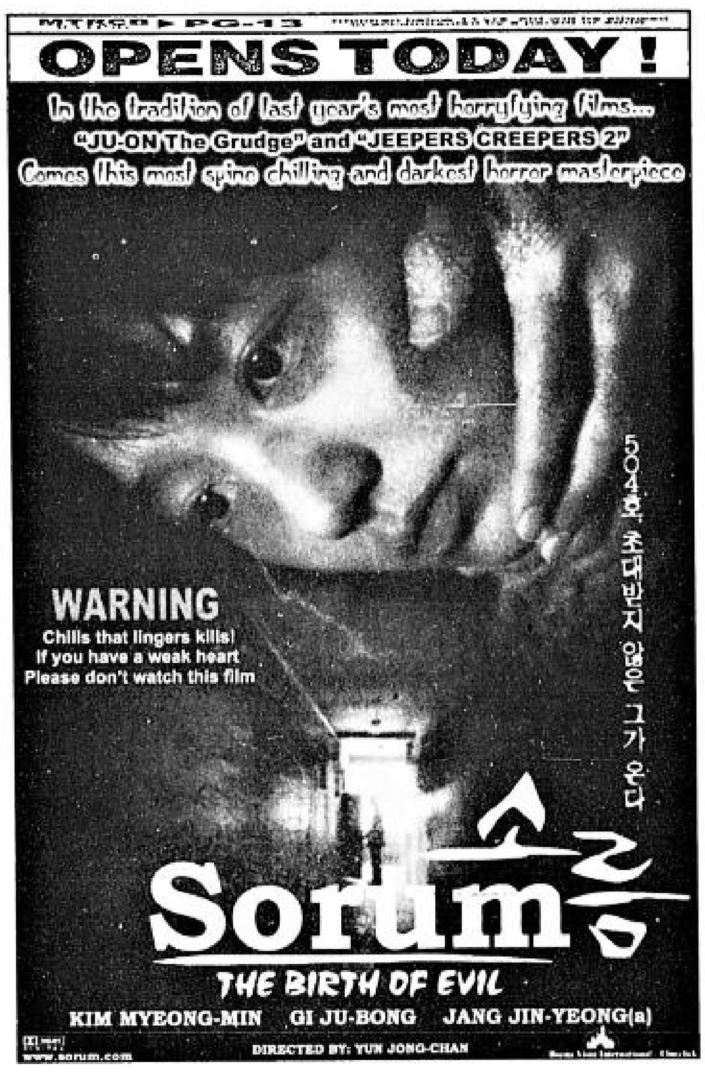
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Accidental hero

SHOW STOPPER

YEARS ago, when his family was intact and living in a modest house in Pasay City, Vhong Navarro recalls lying on the roof by himself, gazing at the sky and dreaming, as he asked himself all sorts of questions.

"Even then, I was already aiming high," says Vhong. "I wanted to rise above my humble beginnings. I daydreamed a lot."

He might not have yet reached the stars, but Vhong is getting closer with Star Cinema's "Otso-Otso, Pamela-Mela One" where he co-stars with Bayani Agbayani.

Vhong has worked his way through school and things took a turn for the better when he became a member of Director Chito Roño's Streetboys which became Vhong's passport to stardom.

"Even then," recalled Vhong, "I already loved to dance. I knew I had a flair for comedy because even if I didn't try to, my friends and classmates laughed at me."

He's the comedian among the Streetboys, and it didn't take long for Vhong's comic talent to be noticed.

Initially, he was cast as sidekick to action stars (Robin Padilla, etc.), until he was tapped to play the title roles in two movies last year, Regal Films' "Gagamboy" and Star Cinema's "Mr. Suave."

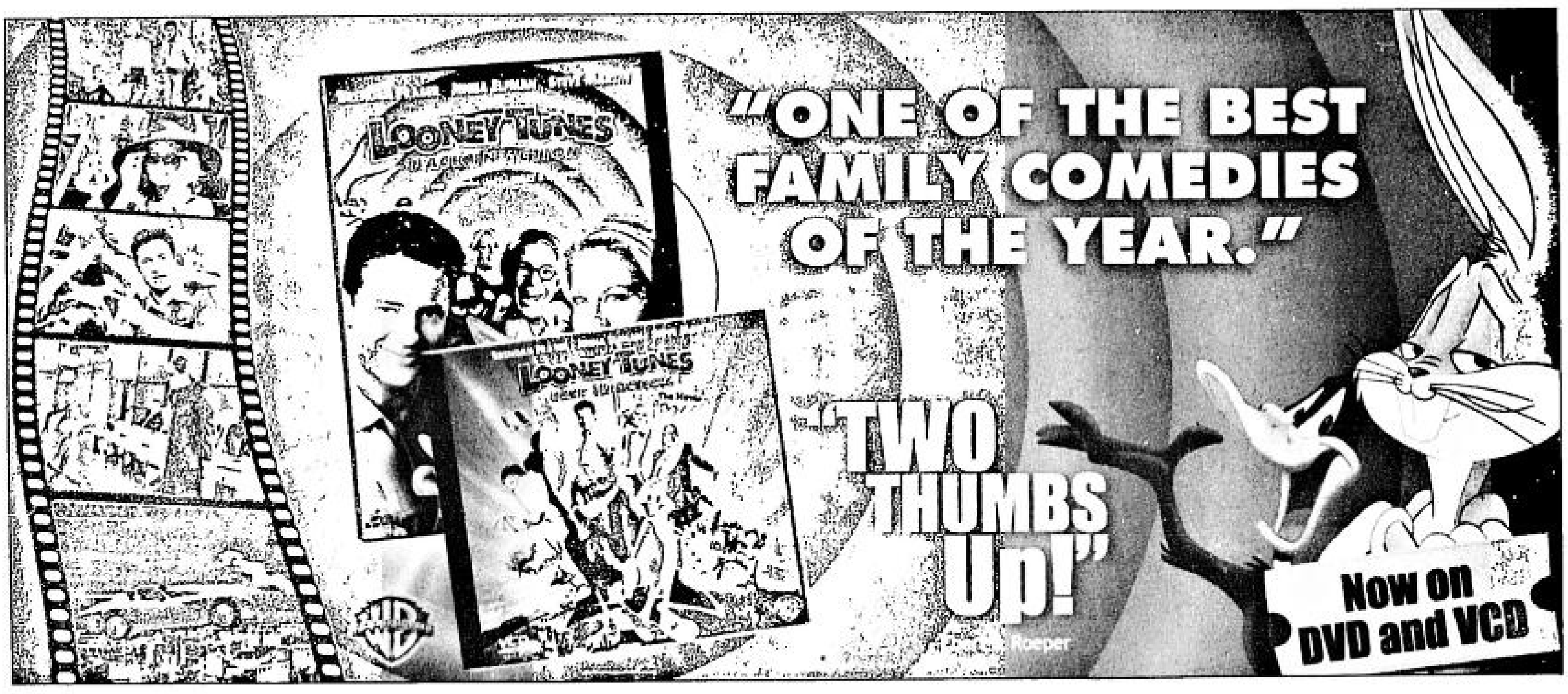
"I couldn't believe it," said Vhong, who also couldn't believe that, like co-star Bayani, he'd turn into a singer of novelty songs.

NAVARRO

Directed by Jerry Lopez Sineneng from a screenplay by Mel Mendoza del Rosario, "Otso-Orso, Pamela-Mela One" is inspired by Bayani's hit song "Otso-Otso," and Vhong's hit song "Pamela-Mela One."

In the movie, Vhong and Bayani play outcasts from their respective families, Bayani because he's the only *moreno* in a family of *mestizos*, and Vhong for being an underachiever in a family of over-achievers.

But with their dancing skills, inventing the "Otso-Otso, Pamela-Mela One" dance at a party which they gatecrash, the two outcasts become achievers in their own right and, in the process, accidental heroes.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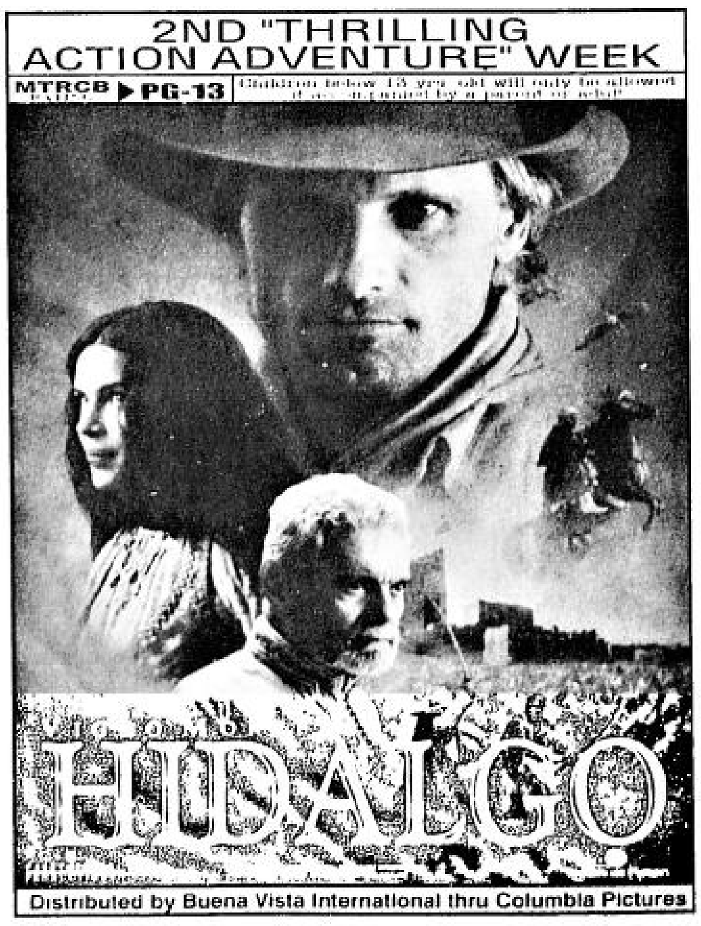
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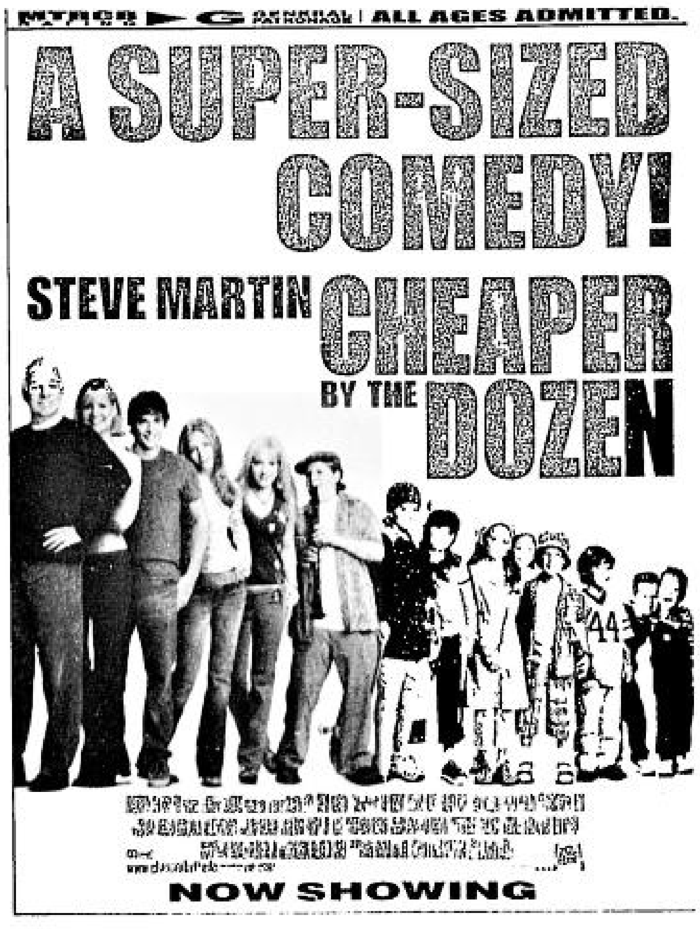
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Prince, George Harrison inducted into rock hall of fame

NEW YORK—Prince started the 19th annual Rock and Roll Hall of Fame awards ceremony with a burst of funk, rock and soul Monday night at the Grand Ballrom of the Waldorf-Astoria.

As he sang "Let's Go Crazy," "Sign 'o' the Times" and "Kiss," a music-business crowd in black tie got to its feet to dance.

Accepting his award, Prince said, "When I first started out in this music industry, I was most concerned with freedom: freedom to produce, freedom to play all the instruments on my records, freedom to say anything I wanted to."

He added, "Without real spiritual mentoring, too much freedom can lead to the soul's decay."

Not age but attitude

Prince, George Harrison, Traffic, Bob Seger, Jackson Browne, the Dells and ZZ Top were welcomed into the Hall of Fame at the ceremony and Dave Matthews, Kid Rock and Bruce Springsteen were on hand to praise them.

The ceremony was videotaped to be shown on the cable channel VH1 at 8 p.m. Sunday night

"Rock isn't an age, it's an attitude," said Jim Capaldi of Traffic. The surviving members of Traffic didn't quite reunite; Dave Mason accepted an award but didn't perform with Capaldi and Steve Winwood.

Springsteen praised Browne's songs about love and politics, saying that if the Beach Boys painted California as paradise, Browne's songs offered California as paradise lost. He said that when he heard Browne, he first thought, "Each song is a diamond," and then, "Damn,I need less words."

He described Browne as "one of the first songwriters I met who demonstrated the value of thinking hard about what you were saying."

Browne admitted, "I can't even write a postcard without ripping it up."

Musicians become eligible for the Hall of Fame 25 years after they release their first recordings. All the new members of the hall are men; the last woman inducted was Brenda Lee in 2002.

Prince, introduced by the Atlanta hip-hop duo OutKast, and Alicia Keys, received his award in his first year of eligibility.

More dues

It was a longer wait for the Dells, a vocal group that got started in high school in 1952, began recording in 1953 and has had the same five-man lineup since 1960. Before the group sang "Oh, What a Night," Charles Barksdale of the Dells said: "We had a lot of hit records. Most of them, we didn't get paid for. All of you out there that still owe us royalties, we're coming after you."

Traffic released its debut album, "Mr. Fantasy," in 1967, and Harrison became the first Beatle to release a solo album—the soundtrack music for "Wonderwall"—in 1968, the year Seger's "Ramblin' Gamblin' Man" became his first Top 20 hit.

"Bob Seger has paid more dues than all the artists in the current Top 40 combined," said Kid Rock, a fellow Detroit rocker.

Browne made his debut album in 1972, and ZZ Top, which turned Texas blues into arena rock, played its first shows in 1970 and released its debut album in 1973. Prince's debut album was released in 1978.

The hall continues to give an award to nonperformers, including songwriters, producers and music business executives. This year, the hall added Jann S. Wenner, editor and publisher of Rolling Stone magazine, and a founder and prime mover for the creation of the hall.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum opened in Cleveland in 1995 and draws half a million visitors a year.

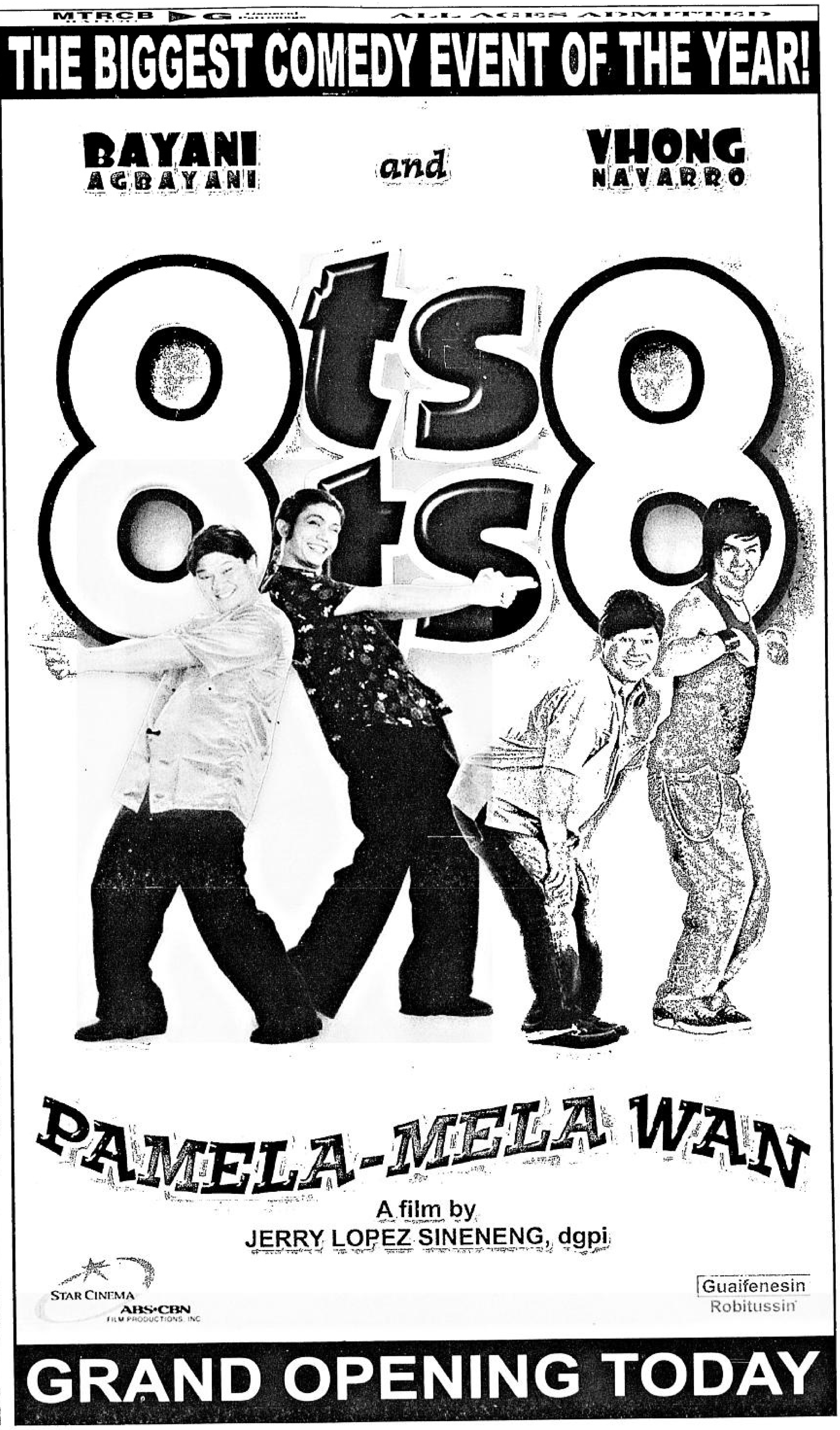
HOT BABE Asia Agcoali is not the first member of the dance group to "accidentally" expose her breast in the noontime show "MTB." The MTRCB suspended her to make a stand.

MTRCB suspends . . .

From page A31

guardia said.

"A two-day suspension of any movie will really hurt them, especially 'Gothika,' because it's making so much money."



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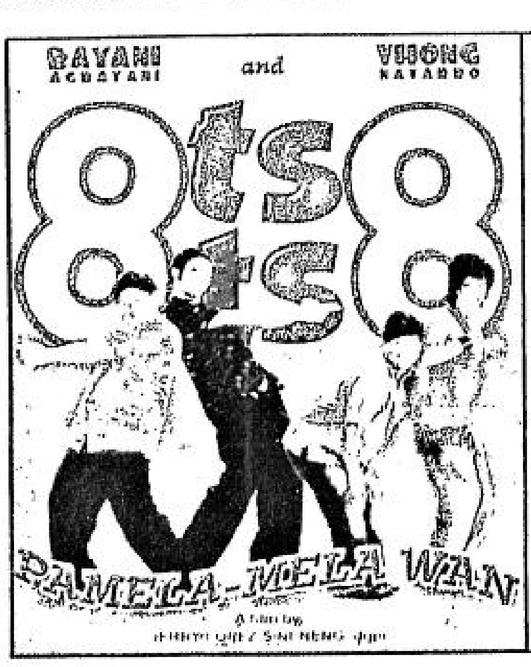

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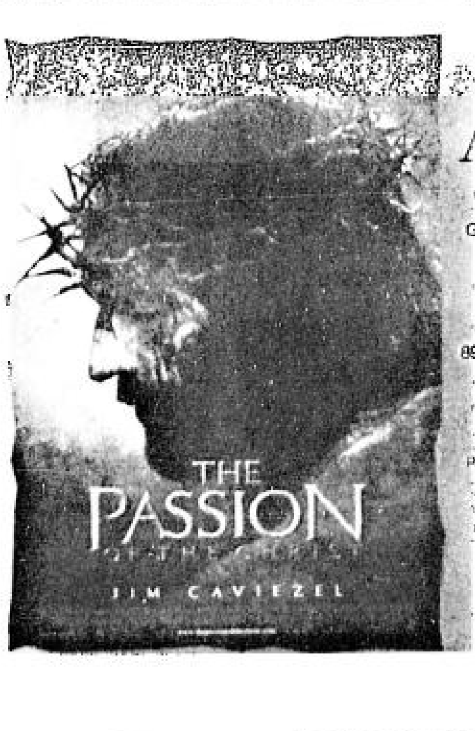

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ICON AYALA CINEMAS

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

MTRCB suspends Hot Babe Asia Agcaoili for boob exposure

By Marinel R. Cruz

VIVA Hot Babe Asia Agcaoili was slapped with a 20-day suspension by ABS-CBN after she "accidentally" exposed a breast last week during the Hot Babes' opening dance number in the noontime variety show "MTB Ang Saya Saya."

The suspension was prompted by a complaint made by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) on the March 9 episode of "MTB."

In a memorandum sent to ABS-CBN senior vice president Socorro Vidanes, the MTRCB said it found the program "objectionable" because of Agcaoili's "accidental left breast exposure."

MTRCB chair Marissa Laguardia has also asked ABS-CBN to submit 30 taped episodes of the noontime show starting with its March 9 episode.

Apology

Agcaoili, who last week apologized about the incident on the news program "TV Patrol," will be suspended starting today, according to Laguardia.

"This is not the first time that the Viva Hot Babes violated MTRCB rules and regulations, so we decided to finally make a stand," Laguardia said yesterday. "We've already received many complaints about them."

Laguardia was referring to another "MTB" episode last December when Jen Rosendahl, also a member of the Viva Hot Babes, accidentally exposed one of her breasts while dancing.

"The network has to make sure that this will not happen to any of their shows again," said Laguardia.

'Gothika'

The MTRCB has issued another memorandum ordering a two-day suspension of the screening of Mathieu Kassovitz's "Gothika," starring Halle Berry.

The suspension came after the MTRCB discovered that the movie has been screened in a theater that is not registered and licensed with the MTRCB.

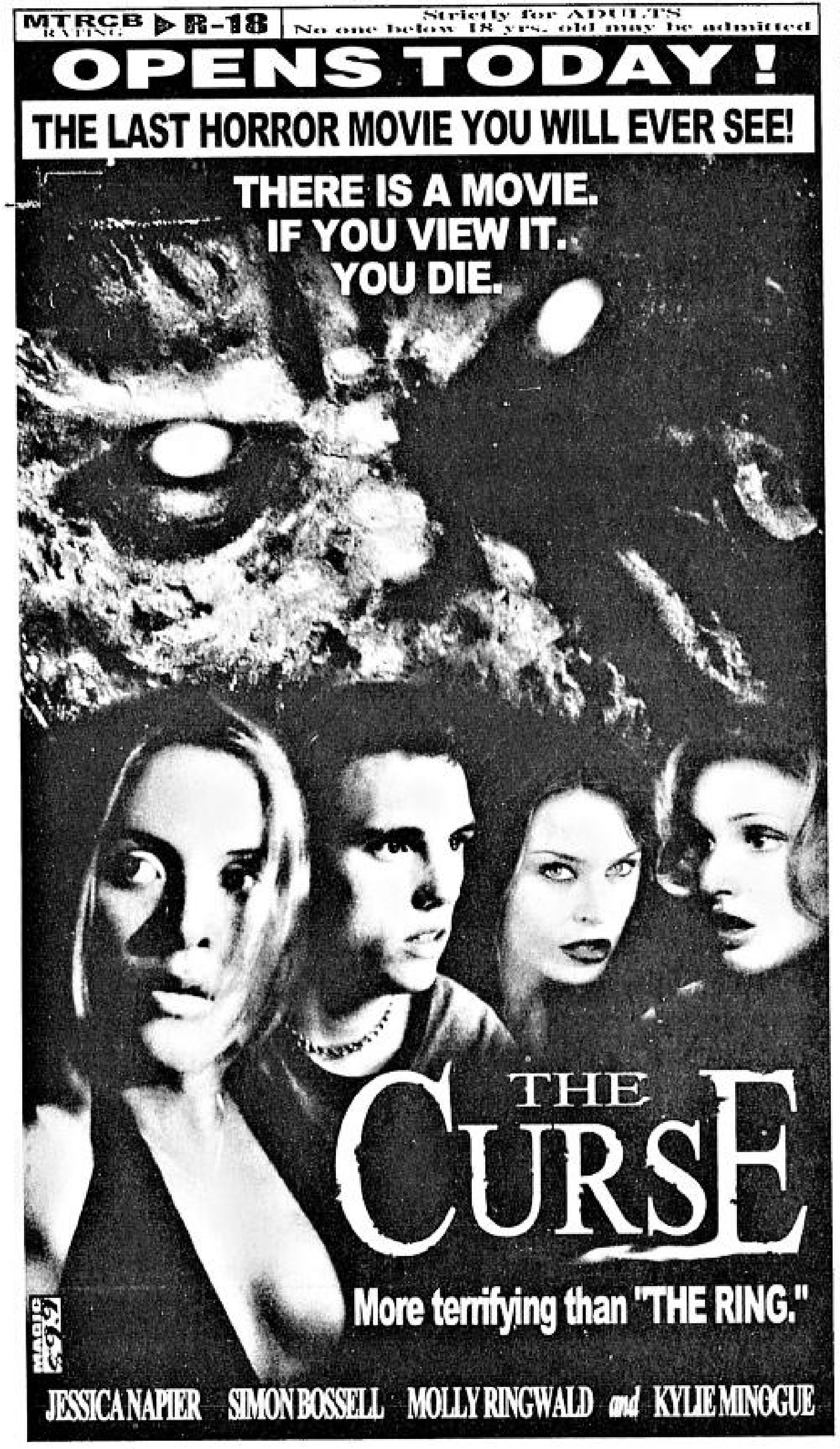
The MTRCB suspended from March 16 to 17 the exhibition of the movie "Gothika" after the board discovered that its local distributor, Columbia Pictures, allowed the film to be shown at the Empire Theater on Abano Street in Baguio City.

The theater was not duly registered and licensed with the MTRCB, the censors chief said.

Laguardia pointed out that a theater operating without the Certificate of Registration is violating Chapter 9, Section 32 of the MTRCB rules and regulations.

"This ought to teach local distributors a lesson," La-

MTRCB A10



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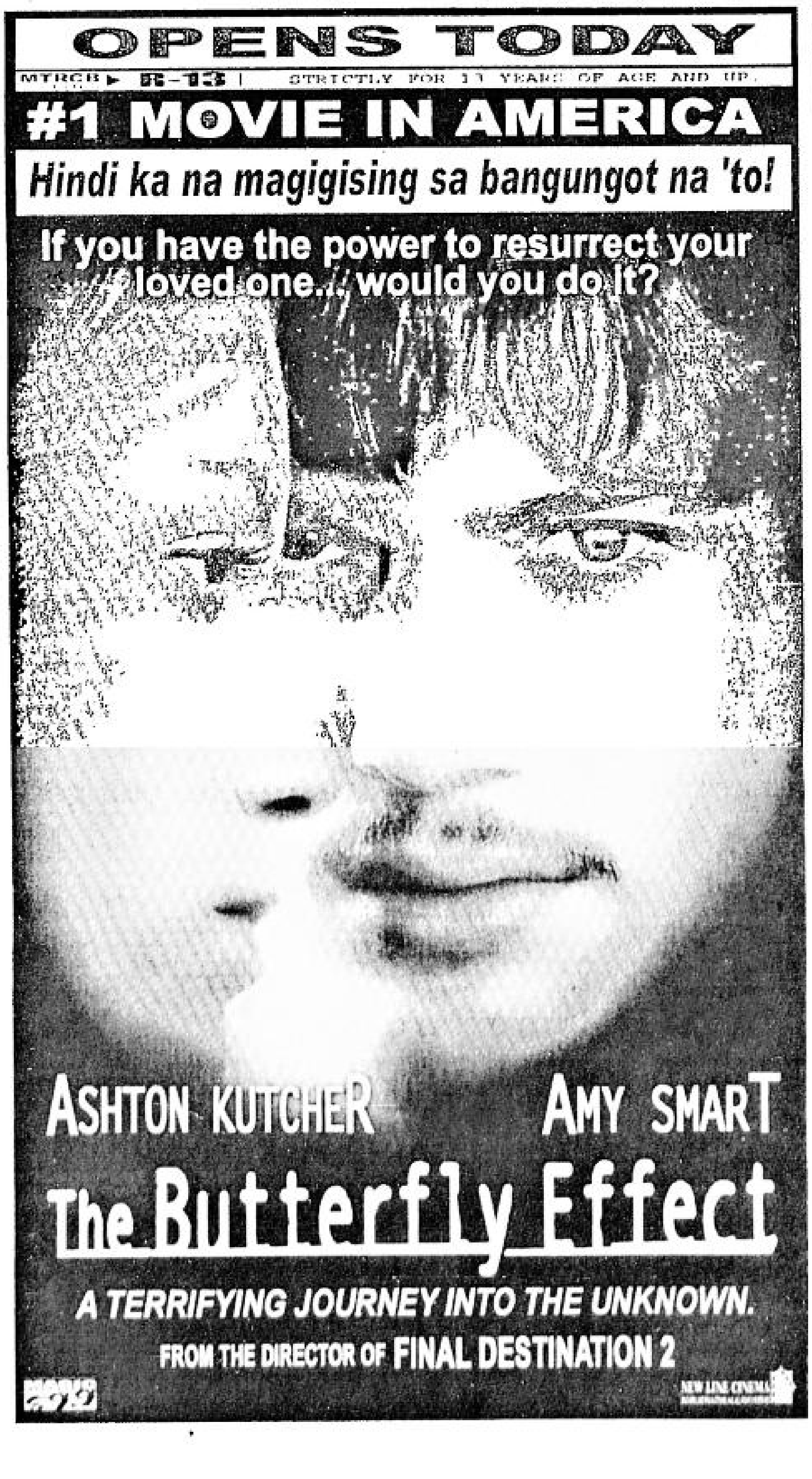

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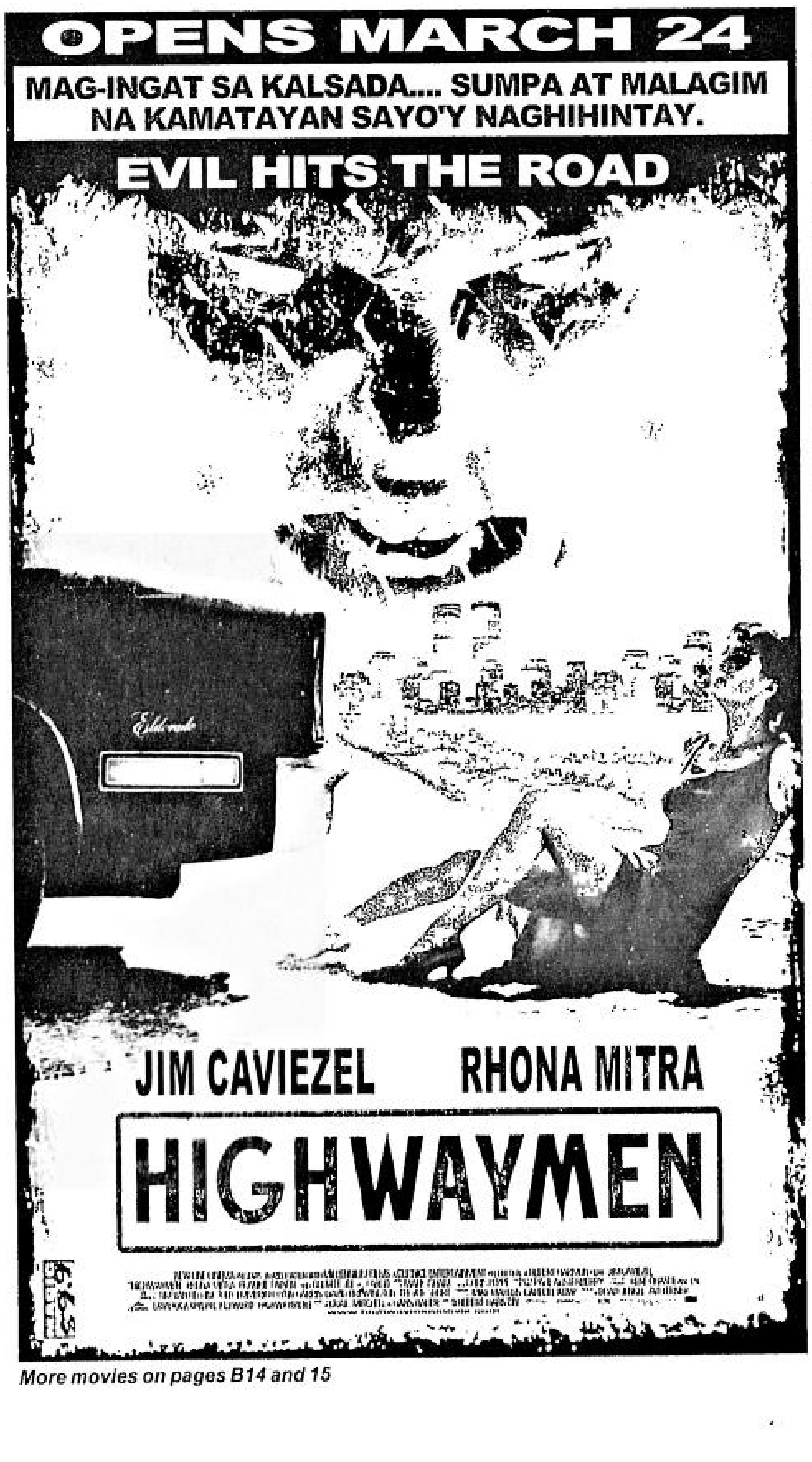

OPENS MARCH 24
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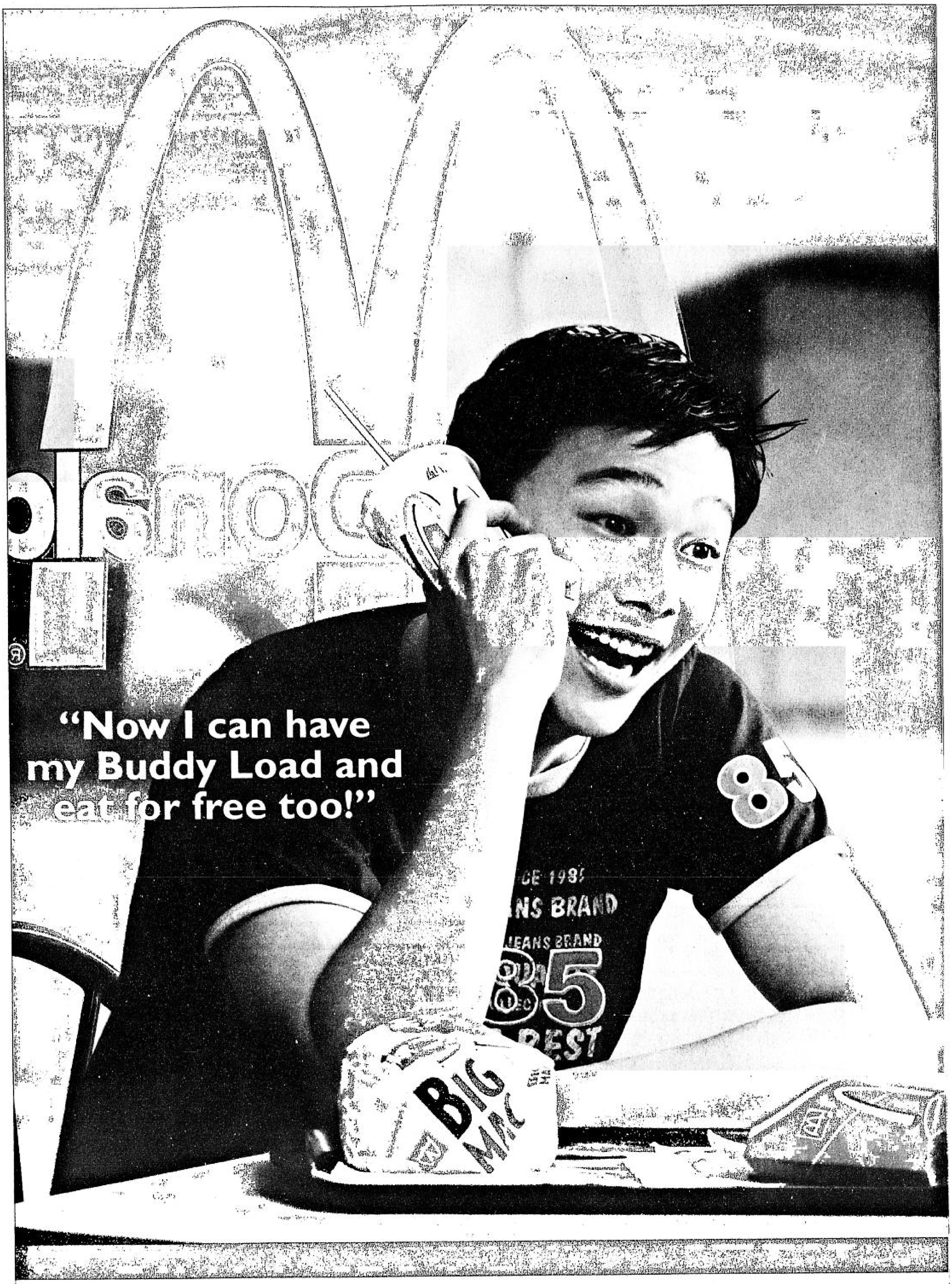
EVIL HITS THE ROAD
JIM CAVIEZEL RHONA MITRA
HIGHWAYMEN

More movies on pages B14 and 15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BUSINESS

B1

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CalPERS delays decision on RP pullout

By Michelle V. Remo

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The decision was made Monday evening following efforts by the Philippine government's negotiating team to appeal the evaluation report of CalPERS' consultant, Wilshire Associates, which gave the Philippines a failing grade in terms of being a recommended investment site.

"We're glad that they (California Public Employees Retirement System) are now trying to consider the country's fiscal performance, which was very well last year since we were able to achieve more than that was programmed," National Treasurer Mina Figueroa told reporters.

The Philippine panel argued that the fund's scorecard in such areas as market efficiency, corporate governance practices, political stability and civil rights had ignored recent developments.

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Fears that CalPERS might withdraw have contributed to a 3.4-percent fall in Philippine stocks since the start of last week, but uncertainty over who will win presidential elections on May 10 has been a bigger factor in the decline.

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"They've been saying this for the last three years," said Alex Pomento, head of research at CLSA Philippines Inc. CalPERS may even have begun selling its holdings to get a better price than it would following an announced withdrawal, he added.

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The Philippines was put on a CalPERS watch list last year and given a one-year probation before the fund reconsidered withdrawing its investments. Argentina, Turkey and Peru were put on a similar one-year watch this year by CalPERS.

CALPERS/ B3

Increase in gas prices looms

By Abigail L. Ho

NEW oil players may have to increase pump prices of gasoline by between 90 centavos and P1.20 in the coming days as the price of imported gasoline in the world market has now escalated to a high of $45 a barrel.

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He said this amount would not be recovered unless an increase in gasoline pump prices of at least P1.20 per liter is implemented soon.

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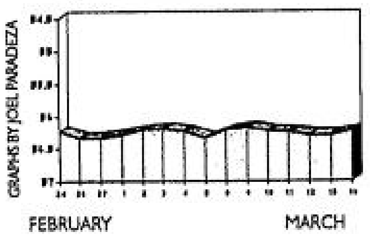
He said that new players, and maybe even the bigger oil firms, might no longer be able to bear the burden of escalating world prices as these had already reached very high levels.

Under-recoveries for gasoline, he said, had reached between 90 centavos and P1 a liter,

INCREASE/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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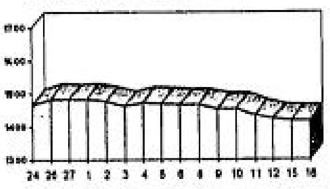
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks steady

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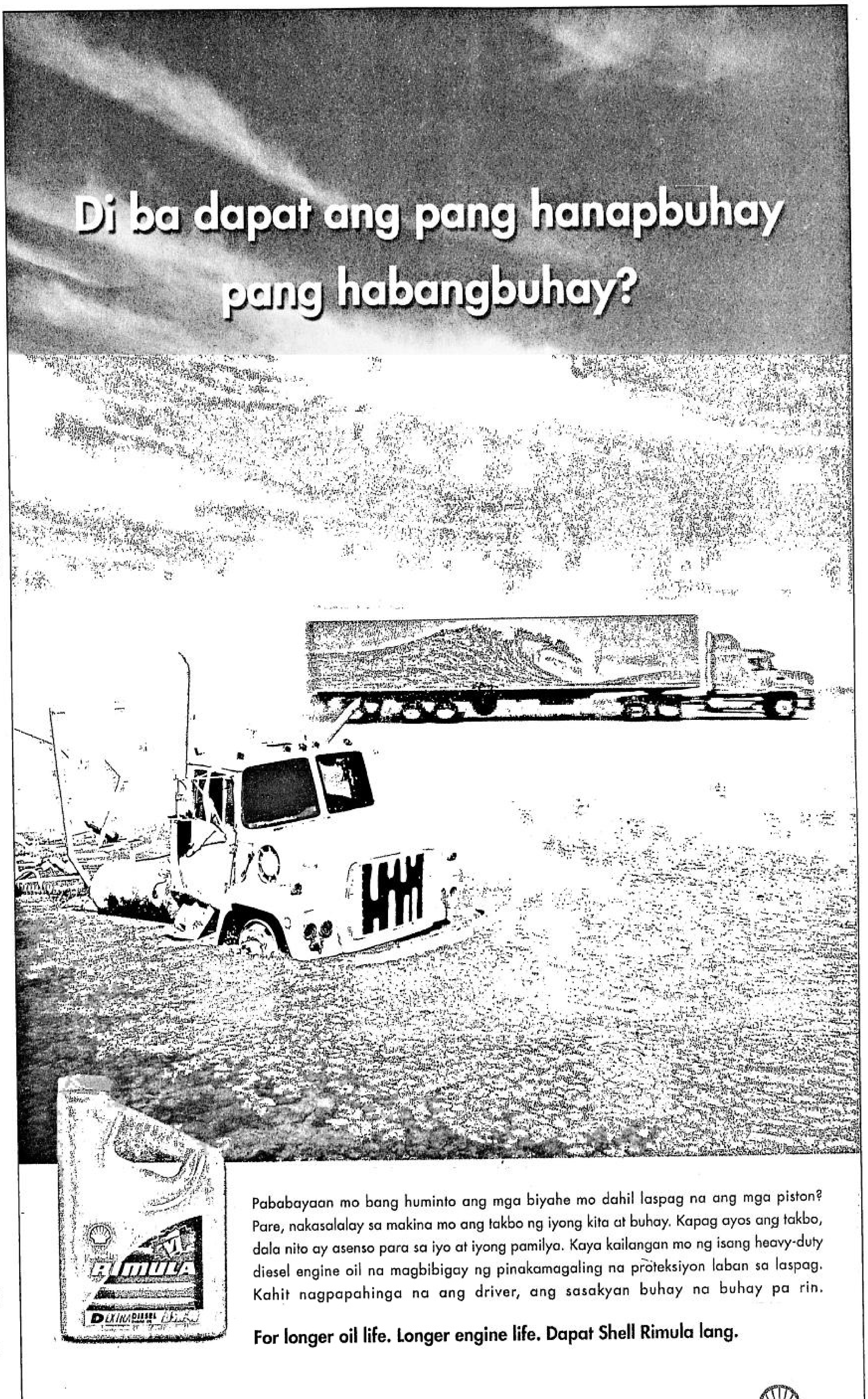
Traders said investors have adopted a wait-and-see attitude due to rising political risks as the May 10 elections for the president and about 17,000 government posts draw closer.

"Investors are waiting for the results of election. The uncertainty over CalPERS' investment in the country also remains an issue," said Spencer Yap, analyst at BPI Securities.

The 33-share main stock index slipped 0.05 percent, or 0.67 of a point, to 1,418.67. This was its lowest close since Dec. 18, when it ended at 1,410.77. The index is down 1.64 percent this year.

Telecom giant PLDT, which gained 1.12 percent on Monday, after JP Morgan added it to its list of top Asian picks, lost P5 or 0.56 percent to P895. *Reuters*



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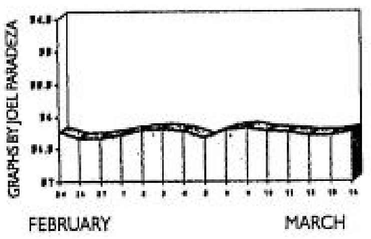

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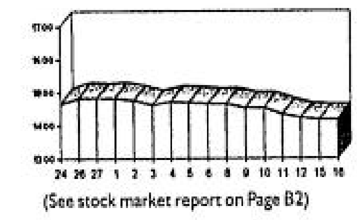

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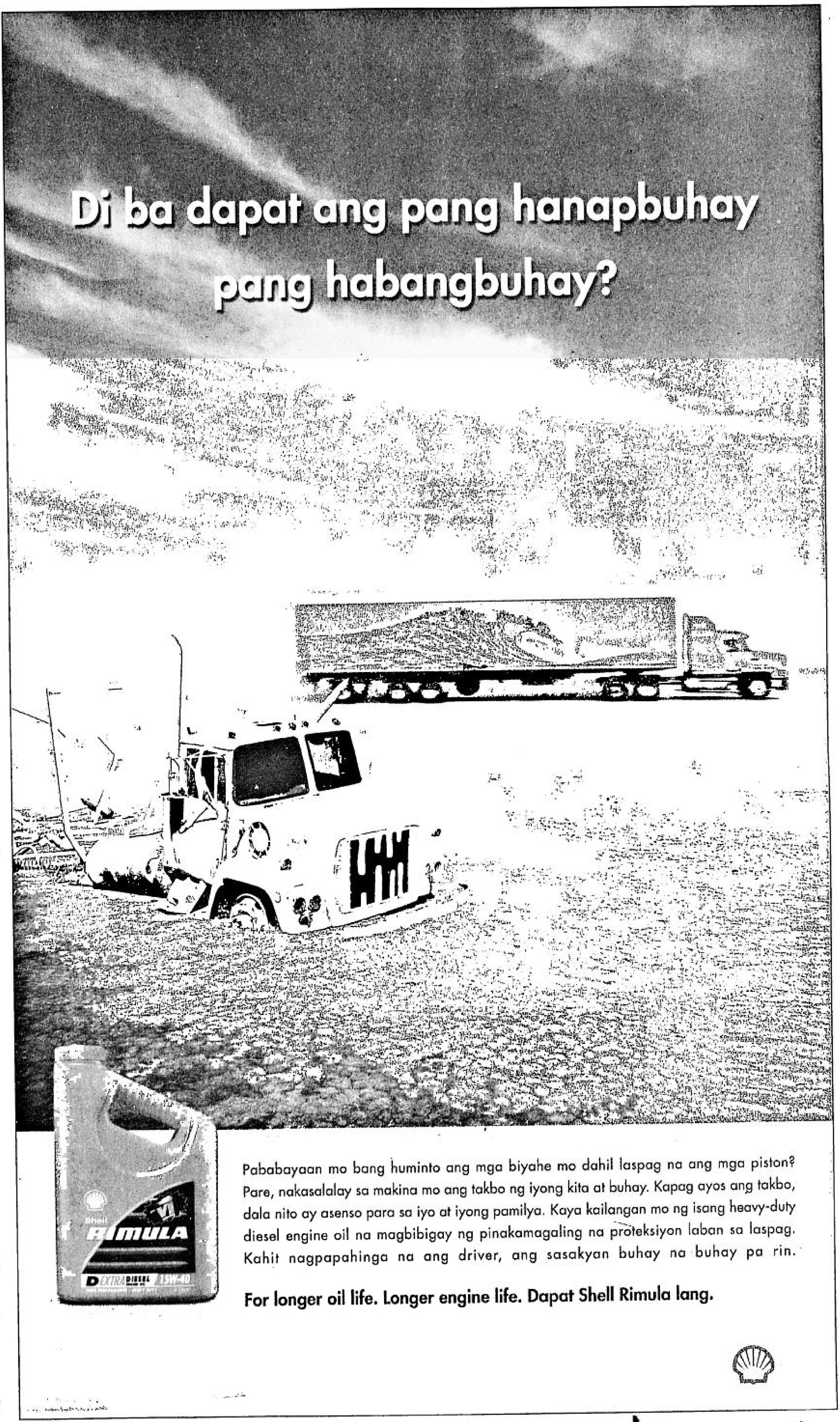

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Feuding Veco owners settle row

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWO feuding shareholders have agreed to settle their almost half-year long dispute over control of Visayan Electric Co., the second biggest private power distributor in the country.

The Aboitiz and Garcia families yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement "amicably settling all existing litigation" and to cooperate in the management and preservation of Veco's assets, franchise and business for the benefit of all stock holders.

The bone of contention was when holding company Hijos de F. Escaño (Hijos) swapped 30 percent of its controlling block of shares in Veco for shares in the Garcias' publicly listed company, Vivant Corp.

Hijos owns 51 percent of the outstanding shares in the Cebu-based Veco. Aboitiz Equity Ventures, the holding company of the Aboitiz family, controls 47 percent of Hijos, while 51 percent is held by the Garcia family.

As a result, AEV beneficially owned a total of 54 percent of Veco shares.

The MOA aims to restore Hijos' shares in Veco transferred under the share swap deal.

It was also agreed that the excess of Hijos' 25-percent shareholdings in Veco be redistributed pro rata to its shareholders to comply with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

As a result, the redistribution will give the Garcias control of 48 percent of Veco through its direct ownership of 23 percent and Hijos' 25 percent. Meanwhile, Aboitiz's direct ownership of Veco will increase to 43 percent.

A number of compromises were also reached.

The Garcias and the Aboitizes agreed to share in the management of Veco. The Garcias will retain control of the Veco board but the chairmanship and the vice-chairmanship will be rotated every year. Initially, the Garcias will nominate the chair, while the Aboitizes will nominate the vice-chair.

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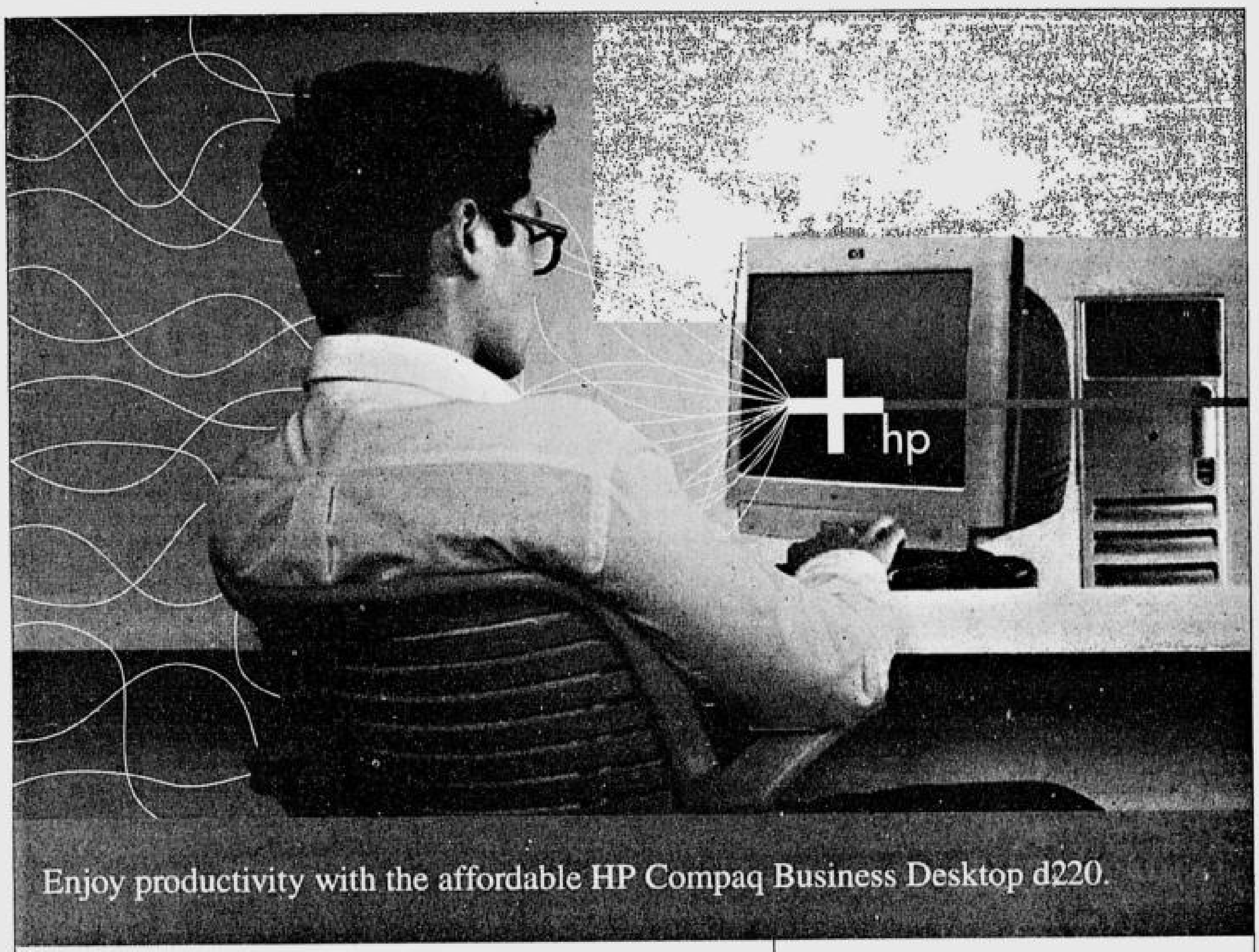
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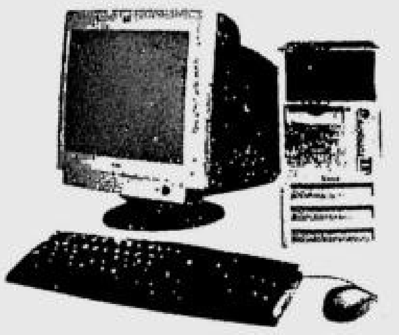

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 16, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.75	18.25	16.5	18.25	38,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	249,300
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	170
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38	38.5	38	38.5	188,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.5	24.75	24.5	24.75	178,500
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23	23	32,100
Security Bank Corp.	16.75	17	16.5	17	14,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	14,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1435	1435	1420	1420	920
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	21	21.25	38,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.67	0.68	790,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	840	835	840	45,940
Ipeople Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	64,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.66	1.68	9,190,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	900	900	885	895	137,830
Philweb Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	47,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.5	18	18.25	30,400
Manila Electric Co. B	28	29	28	28	887,900
Petron Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	5,026,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.06	2.06	38,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	22,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	3	3	4,450,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	190,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	488,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	8,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	17	16.75	16.75	748,800
RFM Corp.	0.46	0.75	0.46	0.73	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56	56	56	51,400
San Miguel Corp. B	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	86,200
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	187,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	10,000
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.9	2,180,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.5	1.56	35,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.51	0.51	9,410,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	110,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	21.5	21.5	19.75	20.75	2,339,700
Ionics Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.84	1.82	1.82	208,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	2,350,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	5,770,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	25,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	8	8	8	8	3,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	400,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	21	21.75	21	21.25	249,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	405	405	405	405	150
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.3	4,839,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	2,430,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	2,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.98	0.99	20,580,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	72,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.8	5.9	360,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	23,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0026	0.0026	0.0024	0.0024	50,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	721,590	26,211,925.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	99,924,620	332,272,980.00
PRO	30,321,000	48,565,630.00
Mining	84,950,000	974,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	215,917,210	408,024,735.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	426.64	DOWN 1.65
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,202.53	DOWN 6.38
PRO	512.70	UP 11.04
Mining	1,444.21	DOWN 14.39
OIL	1.20	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	901.17	DOWN 3.45
Composite	1,418.67	DOWN 0.67

NO. OF ADVANCES: 12; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 73; NO. OF TRADES: 1,704

CURRENCIES

March 16, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.814930	1.000000	56.2910
Japan	Yen	0.007391	0.009069	0.5105
United Kingdom	Pound	1.471518	1.805700	101.6447
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104577	0.128327	7.2237
Switzerland	Franc	0.638409	0.783392	44.0979
Canada	Dollar	0.611350	0.750188	42.2288
Singapore	Dollar	0.477656	0.586132	32.9940
Australia	Dollar	0.599301	0.735402	41.3965
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.161732	2.652661	149.3209
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217309	0.266660	15.0106
Brunei	Dollar	0.476260	0.584419	32.8975
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000095	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.020654	0.025345	1.4267
UAE	Dirham	0.221882	0.272272	15.3265
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.227100	69.0747
Argentina	Peso	0.280526	0.344234	19.3773
Brazil	Real	0.280720	0.344471	19.3906
Denmark	Kroner	0.134209	0.164688	9.2705
India	Rupee	0.018045	0.022143	1.2465
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214484	0.263193	14.8154
Mexico	New Peso	0.074034	0.090847	5.1139
New Zealand	Dollar	0.525795	0.645203	36.3191
Norway	Kroner	0.117971	0.144762	8.1488
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014215	0.017443	0.9819
South Africa	Rand	0.122614	0.150460	8.4695
Korea	Won	0.000695	0.000853	0.0480
Sweden	Kroner	0.108282	0.132873	7.4796
Syria	Pound	0.015793	0.019380	1.0909
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024487	0.030048	1.6914
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000425	0.000522	0.0294

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Eligibility Forms shall be made available to interested firms on the date and place mentioned below upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable amount of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00)

Schedule of Procurement Activities:

Activity	Dates	Time	Place
Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Eligibility Form	March 24, 2004	During Office Hours	PPMC, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Deadline for submission of Eligibility Statement	March 31, 2004	12:00 noon	PPMC, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Issuance of TOR and other Proposal Documents and Site Inspection	April 20, 2004	2:00 p.m.	PPMC, Pennsylvania Ave., San Fernando City, La Union
Pre-Bid Conference	April 23, 2004	2:00 p.m.	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union
Submission and Opening of Bids	May 5, 2004	2:00 p.m.	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union

Applications for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria, thus, only eligible firms shall be invited to participate in the bidding. All bids shall be evaluated in accordance with R.A. 9184 and its IRR.

PPMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or required formality thereto, and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, as determined by the BAC, is the most advantageous to the Corporation.

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Chairman, BAC

(PDI–March 10 & 17, 2004)

Balance-of-payment deficit widens to $822M

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S balance of payment incurred a shortfall of $227 million in the month of February, bringing the two-month, deficit to $822 million, as meager foreign exchange inflows were wiped out by heavy outflows for debt servicing.

The deficit for the first two months of the year was a reversal of the surpluses posted during the same period over the last two years.

In the first two months of 2003, the country's BOP chalked up a surplus of $49 million as the $136-million surplus in January offset the $87-million deficit incurred in February.

In the same two-month period in 2002, there was a BOP surplus of $663 million.

This year, there was a shortfall of $595 million in January alone.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as transfers while the capital and financial account records loan transactions, investment flows, short-term capital and other related items.

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation or offshore investment is a deficit item while any transaction which gives rise to a receipt like exporting or inward remittance and investment is a surplus item.

It was earlier reported that the country's gross international reserves likewise fell to $15.76 billion as of end-February from $16.08 billion in January on foreign exchange outflows arising from public sector debt servicing.

But the BSP has assured the public that the GIR level was still adequate to cover 4.4 months' worth of imports of goods as well as payment of services and income.

Although the BSP has conserved its reserves by staying away from direct intervention in the spot foreign exchange market even when the peso was tumbling to all-time lows, outflows were inevitable from the servicing of debts.

There were maturing debts that the national government and the BSP itself had to service in the first two months of the year. The outflows were partly offset, however, by the deposit of the national government with the BSP of its net loan proceeds from the Philippine global bond exchange.

The national government swapped $1.3 billion worth of debts with bonds carrying longer maturities.

Short-term debt based on residual maturity refers to outstanding short-term external debt at original maturity plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

At the same time, the BSP's net international reserves, inclusive of revaluation of reserve assets and reserve-related liabilities, decreased to $12.89 billion as of end-February from $13.17 billion a month ago.

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BIR misses 2-month collection target

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue reported that its collection for February reached only P28.83 billion, missing by 5.3 percent its P30.43-billion goal for the month.

This brought the BIR's collection for the first two months of the year to P65.37 billion, or lower than its two-month target of P68 billion.

Despite missing its target for the two-month period, the BIR said this could still not create a picture of its full-year collection performance because the first two months of the year were really lean months for the BIR.

"Last year, the BIR started slow, but we were able to surpass our target by yearend," said BIR Assistant Commissioner Marietta Lorenzo in an interview.

While the February collection figure was lower than the target, it was higher than the revenue raised during the same period in 2003 of P27.13 billion.

The bulk of the BIR's February collection came from the Large Taxpayers Service division, which accounted for 55 percent of the revenue agency's total collection for the month.

"Although the BIR's collections for the first two months of the year are still short of the goal, it remains optimistic that it will close the gap between its collections and the cumulative goal in the coming months," the BIR said in a statement.

Lorenzo said the BIR was expecting to catch up with its revenue targets with the implementation of its new programs aimed at increasing tax collection.

For this year, the BIR is tasked to collect P477 billion.

Rate for 4-yr T-bonds increases to 11.36%

THE MARKET continued to push interest rates higher, with the cost of the government's four-year borrowing rising by 48.5 basis points (0.485 percentage point) to 11.36 percent in yesterday's auction.

The 11.36-percent yield was higher than the 10.875 percent recorded during the previous auction for the four-year treasury bond last Feb. 17.

National Treasurer Mina Figueroa said the increase in the rate for the four-year debt paper was still attributed to the market's low liquidity brought by the recent move of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to increase the reserve requirement.

She also said the low liquidity among banks was brought by the few maturities this month. Earlier, Figueroa said banks would only have a total of P4 billion worth of maturing government securities this week.

During the auction, tenders for the four-year T-bonds reached P5.18 billion compared with the government's offering of P3 billion.

Despite the over-subscription, the auction committee of the Bureau of Treasury accepted only P1.35 billion worth of tenders.

"In the absence of any other factors of uncertainty, these are the levels (of yield) that we may see for now," Figueroa said. She explained that the higher rates being asked by the market still had to do with the uncertainty created by the run-up to the May elections.

Meanwhile, she said the Treasury would be announcing its borrowing program for April in the last week of the current month. She said the government has shifted the crafting of its borrowing schedule from a quarterly to a monthly basis. *Michelle V. Remo*

CalPERS delays . . .

From page B1

"We came to the meeting armed with evidence that we achieved a passing grade," Del Rosario told Reuters after the meeting. "I'm disappointed that the board did not act on the evidence we submitted, but I'm confident that if they have time to vet this, we will achieve the passing grade."

Del Rosario had told the CalPERS board that divestment by the fund would undermine investor confidence in the Philippines at a time when it was struggling to create jobs and alleviate poverty. Unemployment rose to 11 percent in January, figures released on Tuesday showed.

CalPERS, which had just under $2 billion invested in emerging markets last year, has had a reputation as an influential market watchdog and an advocate for corporate reform.

But the Philippines had complained that some of the data used last year by Santa Monica, California-based Wilshire Consulting in compiling the CalPERS scorecard was incorrect, resulting in a lower score for the country in such areas as investor protection and judicial reform. *With a report from Reuters*

Increase in gas . . .

From page B1

while those for diesel was at around 90 centavos.

Based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), the pricing benchmark used by players who import refined petroleum products, gasoline prices had reached $44-$45 a barrel as of the second week of March.

Current prices were a far cry from those in October, which averaged $30.45 a barrel, in November at $32.45, in December at $34.66, and in January at $40.27.

Oil refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. also said that it was now looking closely at the movement of oil prices in the world market.

However, as a refiner, the firm would be looking more at Dubai crude prices as its benchmark, according to Shell general manager for external affairs Roberto Kanapi.

"We'll assess the situation and probably have a decision at the end of the month. Prices right now remain volatile. MOPS gasoline prices now are up, while diesel prices are quite flat. This is unusual. But we're looking more at Dubai. By week's end, we'll look at (a possible price adjustment) more seriously," he told reporters Monday.

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Portfolio investments hit $80.9M in March–BSP

By Doris C. Dumlao

POLITICAL uncertainties have kept most foreign investors at the sidelines with only $80.9 million in net foreign portfolio funds going to the Philippines from January to March 5 this year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported that while the country attracted more funds during the period this year, it represented only a fraction of the funds flowing back to Asia.

Net inflows in the same period last year stood at only $24.4 million due to the global economic downturn.

"This reflects pre-election sentiments as investors are assuming a wait-and-see attitude. This is something that has been expected," said BSP managing director Diwa Guinigundo.

"We hope things will be better after the elections because by then, we'll have a clearer picture for investors," he said.

January figures were encouraging at $47.8 million, but portfolio investments or hot money dipped to $36.9 million in February.

Guinigundo said most of the portfolio inflows so far this year were invested in local equities, with the rest going to bank deposits and government securities.

The BSP culls its data on foreign portfolio investments from the report of the country's five biggest custodian banks.

For 2003, the Philippines raked in $675.8 million in net portfolio investments.

Deutsche Bank, in its February commentary on the Philippines, offered hope for the local equities market.

"The Philippines is highly leveraged to change. It has been out of favor with investors for a long time, and has paid the price via a weak currency, high interest rates and sluggish business conditions," the bank said.

"Yet its leading corporates have behaved as properly as any in the region and are primed for growth—their operations are streamlined, their balance sheets (improved) and their market positions more dominant than ever," it said.

PLDT to cut debt by half in '06, Deutsche Bank says

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. should trim its debt by half to P64.5 billion by 2006 from P128.9 billion as of end last year, Deutsche Bank said in a report.

Deutsche Bank said in its March 5 study that PLDT's debt repayment program would be made possible by the strong performance of PLDT and cellular phone subsidiary Smart Communications Inc.

The bank assumes that Smart would remit all its projected net earnings this year of P17.5 billion and P20.1 billion in 2005 to PLDT.

The strong performance of PLDT and Smart should assure investors and creditors that both firms would be able to settle their debts as they fall due, the bank said.

Portions of PLDT's outstanding debt are owed to holders of bonds maturing in 2007, 2009, 2012, and 2017.

Deutsche Bank said uncertainties over Philippine borrowings might have spilled over to corporate debt but investors should take comfort in the strong performance of PLDT and Smart last year, which allowed both firms to reduce debt substantially.

"At the back of the strong dividend contributions from Smart, we expect PLDT to meet its obligation during 2004 to 2006. Evidently, the key driver for PLDT's organic debt reduction will be dividends from Smart," said the bank in its forecast.

Last year, Smart remitted all its P16.1 billion in net earnings to PLDT, allowing the dominant carrier to register a net profit of P11.2 billion. Smart's profits were at P6.2 billion in 2002 while PLDT's stood at about P3 billion.

Given the prospects of sustained profitability of Smart and its continued contributions to the parent firm, Deutsche believed that PLDT bonds "are more resilient" than the country's sovereign bonds.

"This view is underpinned by the prospect that PLDT will accelerate its process of de-leveraging from 2004. On the absolute price of spread basis, however, we recommend a hold on PLDT bonds as the continuing sovereign risk is set to remain as an overhang in the near-to-medium term," the bank said.

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Alta Vista	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	680,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club A/B**	72,000	-
Canlubang Golf Club	430,000	-
Canyon Woods	140,000	-
Camp John Hay	240,000	180,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	130,000
Cebu Country Club	-	1,230,000
Club Filipino	-	120,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	280,000*	-
Eastridge A/B*	-	70,000/50,000*
Evercrest	-	Pls. Call
Fontana DIC*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	-	9,500,000
Manila Polo	2,400,000	2,200,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Manila Yacht Club	550,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	430,000	-
Metropolitan Club	110,000	70,000
Mimosa C2	250,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	180,000	120,000/250,000*
Mt Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	300,000*	-
Orchard Golf A/B*/C**	Pls. Call	Pls. Call**
Punta Fuego	-	400,000
Riviera Golf A/B*	120,000	100,000*
Rockwell Leisure Club	350,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	Pls. Call	-
Sherwoods A/B*/C**	70,000/220,000**	100,000*
Sta Elena A	Pls. Call	1,000,000
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	300,000
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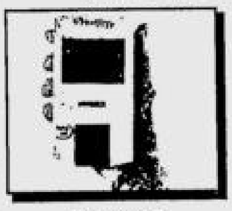

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Coffee exports up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

COFFEE export volumes posted a 76.5-percent increase in 2003 despite a global reduction in coffee production, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Data from the DTI's International Coffee Organization Certifying Agency (ICOCA) showed that 740 metric tons of processed coffee and green beans were exported in 2003 from 420 tons in 2002.

Coffee exports yielded earnings of about $2.02 million in 2003, an increase of 76 percent from about $1.14 million the previous year.

The DTI cited figures from the London-based International Coffee Organization, which showed that the combined coffee production of 45 countries posted a 14.5-percent decline to 102.5 million bags in 2003 from 119.95 million bags in 2002.

The decrease resulted in an increase in world coffee prices, which benefited minor exporters like the Philippines, the DTI said.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas Aquino said the department expected coffee exports to increase this year due to the high prices and the production cuts by traditional exporters like Brazil.

The ICOCA reported that of last year's exports, 80 percent or 590 tons were processed coffee while 20 percent or 150 tons were green beans.

Of the 558,500 kilograms of instant coffee exports last year, 90 percent were shipped to Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.

The remainder was exported to Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Palau Islands.

Dizon farm to put up citrus project in Clark

CLARK, Pampanga—Dizon Farm of Davao will develop a P3.48-million citrus plantation inside the Clark Special Economic Zone. It recently signed an agreement with the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) for the establishment of an agro-industrial project here.

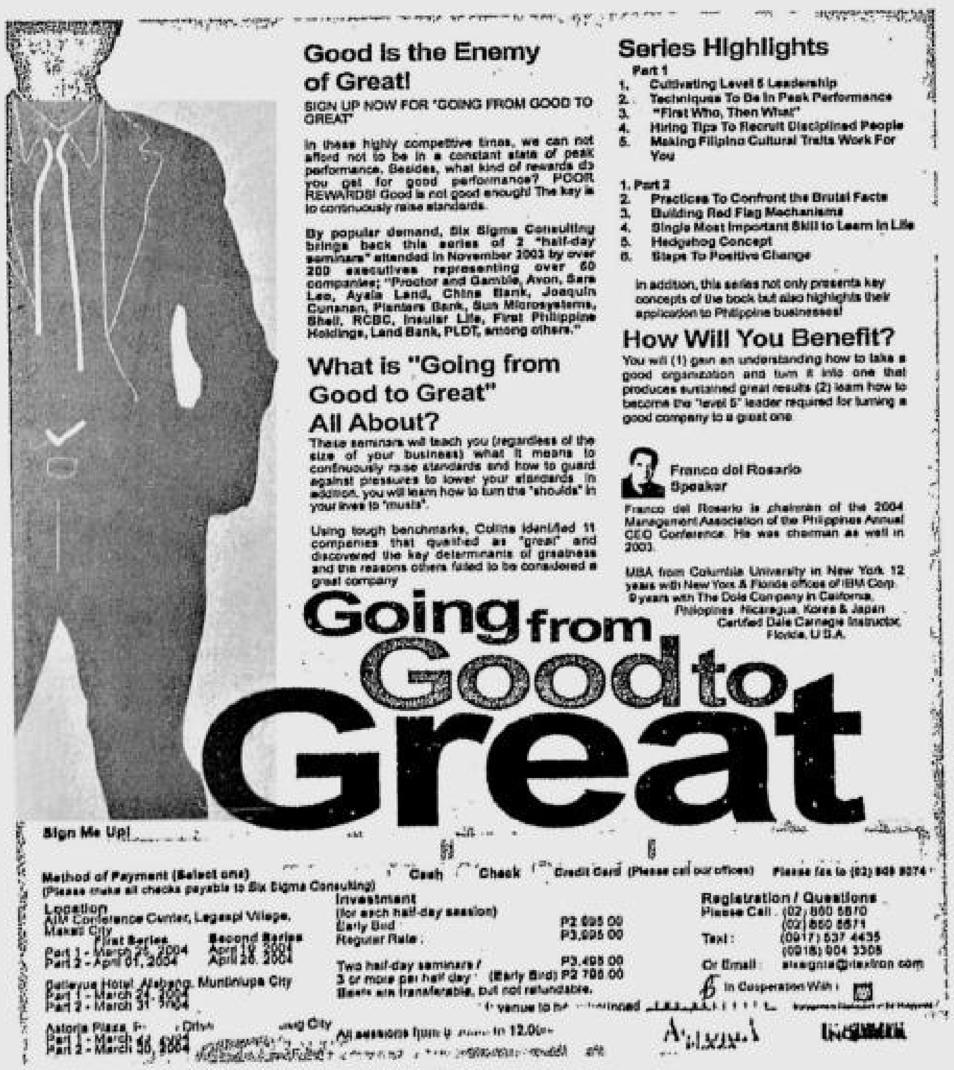
Dizon Agro-Industrial Inc. plans to extend the success of Dizon farm in Davao to Pampanga by developing 32 hectares in Clark into a citrus orchard.

The orchard will be planted basically to calamansi and some fruit bearing trees.

The lease agreement was signed by CDC president Emmanuel Y. Angeles and Francisco S. Dizon, president of the Dizon Agro-Industrial project.

Dizon said cash crops would be planted within the area during the gestation period of the fruit trees to immediately generate jobs and income for the project. The Dizon farm in Davao is known for its mangoes, lanzones, pomelo, pineapple and other tropical fruits sold in the international and local markets.

Angeles said that Clark will benefit from the technology transfer because the Dizon company's success in farming and marketing of a wide variety of tropical fruits.



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Using tough benchmarks, Collins identified 11 companies that qualified as "great" and discovered the key determinants of greatness and the reasons others failed to be considered a great company.

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2. Practices To Confront the Brutal Facts
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In addition, this series not only presents key concepts of the book but also highlights their application to Philippine businesses!

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You will (1) gain an understanding how to take a good organization and turn it into one that produces sustained great results (2) learn how to become the "level 5" leader required for turning a good company to a great one

Franco del Rosario
Speaker

Franco del Rosario is chairman of the 2004 Management Association of the Philippines Annual CEO Conference. He was chairman as well in 2003.

MBA from Columbia University in New York. 12 years with New York & Florida offices of IBM Corp. 9 years with The Dole Company in California, Philippines, Nicaragua, Korea & Japan. Certified Dale Carnegie Instructor, Florida, U.S.A.

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Manila Water
NOTICE TO MANILA WATER CUSTOMERS AND THE PUBLIC

The Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment (FCDA) will increase from **P 0.16** per cubic meter to **P 0.19** effective **April 1, 2004** based on exchange rate of P 56.07 per US Dollar. The increase in water bill will only be **less than fifty centavos** per month for average residential customer consuming 30 cubic meters per month.

FCDA is a tariff mechanism used by utility companies that is adjusted upwards to recover losses if the peso depreciates and downwards if the peso appreciates against other currencies. Manila Water has to continue paying for the foreign exchange denominated concession fees to the MWSS, as well as loans required for its service expansion and improvement.

The increase in FCDA was approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office in its Resolution No. 04-001-CA dated 09 March 2004 as confirmed by the MWSS Board Resolution No. 2004-069 dated 15 March 2004.

Manila Water Company, the East Zone concessionaire, covers the following areas:

Manila (San Andres and Sta. Ana only), Quezon City (east of San Juan River, West Avenue, EDSA, Congressional and Mindanao Ave., Districts of Tandang Sora, Pasong Tamo and Matandang Balara), Makati City (east of South Super Highway), Mandaluyong City, San Juan, Marikina City, Pasig City, Pateros, Taguig — all in Metro Manila; Rizal Province.

PDI March 17, 2004

Uniwide to issue notes

RETAIL group Uniwide Group of Companies may issue its convertible notes by the second quarter this year, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said.

In a report filed by Uniwide legal counsel Alampay Gatchalian, Mawis, Alampay with the SEC, Uniwide said the proposed notes will be redeemed after 15 years.

It also provides an option for creditors to convert the notes into common shares on the third year of implementation of its second amended rehabilitation plan, or in 2005. *Elisabeth L. Sanchez.*

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PEOPLE at WORK

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Subsection Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

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Convention gives parents a 'whack on the head'

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

A FUNNY thing happened to me on the way to the 2nd Philippine Parenting Convention. I got whacked on the head. Literally!

Organized by parenting advocates Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan and dubbed "Idol Ko, Parents Ko," this year's convention not only promised to bring together the best minds and hearts on parenting, but it also promised to be a festival on the family. Thus, to indicate the start of the proceedings, Director Freddie Santos, prepared a lavish opening number: a mardi gras of ati-atihan dancers celebrating hope for families by dancing and beating on their drums. They whipped up such a frenzy that an ati-atihan dancer mistook my head for a drum. Yes, I got such a solid whack on the head, it sent the room spinning. Before my world turned black, I saw the culprit dancing with a *walis* on his head, bobbing up and down. He didn't even realize he hit me! He went on his merry way, while I had to pick up my dignity off the floor.

I had come as a guest speaker and an eager co-advocate. I didn't quite expect the kind of welcome that I got, but there it was—ominous, thought provoking, mind-boggling and hilarious. Headache and bruised ego aside, the whack may yet have been the most effective way to get my attention. Utterly humiliated (I covered my face, in fact, so that no one would recognize me), these questions raced through my head: Why is this happening? What did I do to deserve this? What is God trying to tell me?

In so many ways, these were the very questions parents and resource speakers were grappling with at the convention. Faced with powerful forces that tug and pull at families today, we had to ask ourselves these questions: Why is this happening to our families? What did we do to deserve a situation like this? What is God trying to tell us about our role as parents?

Important lessons for the working mom

A powerhouse of parenting advocates came in full force to offer lessons and, more importantly, to offer hope not only for our nuclear families but for our country as well. A recurring theme weaving through the different sessions conducted by over 30 speakers is the need to raise our children as leaders. It is not enough that we bring up our children to be obedient and loyal, we must consciously direct them to be mission-oriented, to harness the power of influence only for the greater good, and to constantly seek the welfare of others. This was the battle cry in many discussions—if our families or our country doesn't deserve the situation we are in, it maybe because we have not deliberately planned our role as parents.

Following are important lessons from three of the most powerful speakers in the convention.

Raise your children to be leaders. Guillermo M. Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, defines the role of parents as formators of our country's future leaders. If there is an apparent lack of good leaders in our country today, it may be because our family life didn't prepare us for authentic leadership. Luz proposed that by instilling in our children the values of nationalism, leadership as servanthood, commitment, honesty, and integrity, we will be doing our share in ensuring that our country will have a better future.

Find God in parenting. Fr. Ruben Tanseco, president of the Center for Family Ministries (CEFAM), proposed that the key to finding God's purpose for your life is in understanding your role in guiding your children. When we understand that God has a plan for each of us and that our children could be the channel of this divine purpose, then we will have the grace to bring up our children to be future leaders and assets to our country.

Manage your personal life. Anthony Pangilinan led the discussion on the parent as a juggler in the balance of life. Speaking on a topic so close to the working mom's heart, he proposed that the way to a balanced life is not to divide your time equally between your work and family. Instead, he said, focus on managing your personal life effectively first, know what you are about, what is important to you, and productivity at work will follow. In other words, balance is not about tallying the hours, it is about knowing where we want our life to go and what path we'd like our families to take.

Judging from the packed session halls and the enthusiastic participation of delegates, the discussions opened hearts and minds to the new role of parents as idols and role models for future leaders. Indeed, we didn't even need to whack too many heads to get the message through.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. For more tips and strategies, get this month's issue with Carmina Villaroel on the cover. Send feedback to an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com)

Job seeker with good credentials can't find job

By Gary B. Teves
President and Chief Executive Officer, Land Bank of the Philippines

ASK YOUR CEO

I'M hoping that someone could give me some tips regarding job hunting. I've been unemployed for two years now. I'm afraid that if I don't get a job soon, I'll be out of the market, as I'll be overqualified in terms of age requirements.

In my last job, I worked as a teacher in a small but respectable school. I had to resign because of health reasons. I could not handle the physical and emotional stress of working with very young children. I also felt very constrained working with children at that level.

I have given out my résumé to hundreds of companies. About a dozen have responded, but I never get past the interview stage. The feedback I usually get is that my résumé and company test results are impressive, and that I have strong qualifications for the job. But that's where it usually ends.

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I've also been applying abroad (in the US) for technical or teaching positions. I haven't had any luck so far. I worked part-time in the US straight out of college, but decided to pursue a career in the Philippines instead. I feel like I'm getting punished for having been hard working, well balanced, so cially conscientious and nationalistic.

I've been reading advice columns and have been following through with advice on writing good cover letters, writing thank you letters after interviews, following up on résumé submissions, wearing the proper attire during an interview, pricing myself within industry range, but still, I've not been blessed with a job.

I've applied to my alma mater, and even they did not hire me. In my desperation, I have applied for jobs as a food service assistant, a receptionist or a directory assistant.

I'm only too grateful that I got a scholarship in that good IT school. At least, I'm doing something productive while I'm jobless and penniless.

Can you tell me what's wrong with what I'm doing? I have attached my résumé, just in case you could give me some suggestions on how to revise it. Thank you.

"Overqualified" applicant

These are challenging times even for the brightest, most promising young job hunters, but don't let that discourage you. Instead, try to focus on staying productive, and refuse to take rejection personally. You're doing all the right things, including enhancing your education, so be patient. You might also want to try incorporating some of the suggestions below.

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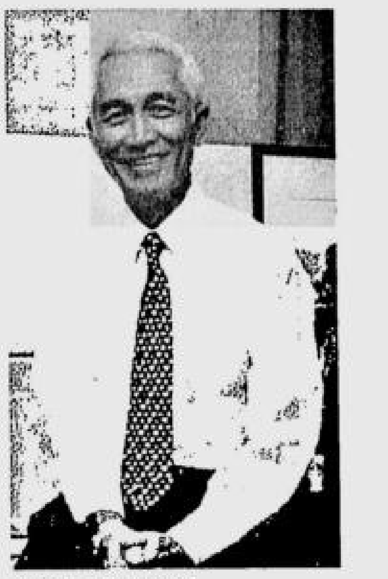

CEO mentor Teves

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If the interviewer doesn't volunteer the information, ask about their timetable and next steps. This will help you get a better idea of their internal process and give you an opportunity to follow up if you don't hear from them.

Don't give up. You clearly possess persistence and initiative, two qualities that will go a long way towards ensuring your success. Don't let these initial setbacks get you down. Continue to think positive and improve your skills and knowledge while waiting for all your efforts to pay off, as I'm sure they eventually will.

Thank you, and good luck on all your endeavors!

(Our CEO columnists can answer requests for career advice through this column. Send your request by postal mail to People at Work Editor, PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1200 or e-mail peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.)

Pollster is (election) season's 'man of the hour'

By Cecile G. Garcia

CAREER TALES

HE is sought out and consulted by every kind of public official. His views and observations on current issues are carefully listened to or read, and his polling pronouncements during election season are eagerly awaited. He is Professor Felipe B. Miranda, political scientist and foremost authority on polling. For 41 years, Miranda has built an unsullied reputation in his chosen area of study. He is also a professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines and presently research director of Pulse Asia, Inc., which he co-founded in 1998, serving as its president until 2001.

Pulse Asia, Inc. is a privately owned enterprise engaged in research studies on significant public concerns regarding socio-economic, political and cultural issues. It is likewise engaged in professional polling and undertakes surveys. Its team of analysts is made up of UP professors.

Surprisingly, Miranda is not a graduate of UP. According to him, he dropped out of the university during his senior year in BS Foreign Service, and subsequently obtained a scholarship, which made it possible for him to go to Brandeis University (in Massachusetts) where he studied Political Science. He graduated cum laude. Later on, he took up his master's degree at the University of Chicago.

Long road

Becoming the expert that he is today was a long process, admits Miranda. He says, "Over the years, I developed a concern for the truth with regard to politics, governance, economics and other related matters. Data could be inaccurate, I thought. The cure was to look into things. But, I knew I had to be objective. It has been difficult. But, I understand things faster and better because I don't allow biases to dominate or cloud my thinking."

Being able to integrate everything he could learn was essential. "My exposure to people with integrationist skills was a big help," Miranda discloses. In the 70s he did an in-depth study on the military within the context of martial law. This also helped, he points out, perhaps because it inadvertently provided the framework for his future endeavors.

In his job, Miranda must always try to determine "the highest priority study of the moment." He clarifies, "It can be a huge moment, and it's important to bear in mind that a study must have utility beyond research. It must have a link to society and implications for the community."

Polling work

Miranda started his polling work in 1979, and was part of the group that established the Social Weather Station (SWS) in the mid 80s. What does a pollster like him do? "I design surveys and put questionnaires together," he replies. "I look at the results of our probe and analyze them, and get the client to understand what they mean." Surveys have been around since the early 50s, he adds. "But, we've been changing for the last 15 years, and surveys have become highly professionalized. Through surveys we are assured that the public voice is there." The professor considers his role in surveys as one of his more significant contributions to society.

Lending his analytical skills to private consultancy work keeps Mi-

POLLSTER/ B7

E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

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Don't give up. You clearly possess persistence and initiative, two qualities that will go a long way towards ensuring your success. Don't let these initial setbacks get you down. Continue to think positive and improve your skills and knowledge while waiting for all your efforts to pay off, as I'm sure they eventually will.

Thank you, and good luck on all your endeavors!

(Our CEO columnists can answer requests for career advice through this column. Send your request by postal mail to People at Work Editor, PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1200 or e-mail peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.)

Convention gives parents a 'whack on the head'

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

A FUNNY thing happened to me on the way to the 2nd Philippine Parenting Convention. I got whacked on the head. Literally!

Organized by parenting advocates Anthony and Maricel Pangilinan and dubbed "Idol Ko, Parents Ko," this year's convention not only promised to bring together the best minds and hearts on parenting, but it also promised to be a festival on the family. Thus, to indicate the start of the proceedings, Director Freddie Santos, prepared a lavish opening number: a mardi gras of ati-atihan dancers celebrating hope for families by dancing and beating on their drums. They whipped up such a frenzy that an ati-atihan dancer mistook my head for a drum. Yes, I got such a solid whack on the head, it sent the room spinning. Before my world turned black, I saw the culprit dancing with a *walis* on his head, bobbing up and down. He didn't even realize he hit me! He went on his merry way, while I had to pick up my dignity off the floor.

I had come as a guest speaker and an eager co-advocate. I didn't quite expect the kind of welcome that I got, but there it was—ominous, thought provoking, mind-boggling and hilarious. Headache and bruised ego aside, the whack may yet have been the most effective way to get my attention. Utterly humiliated (I covered my face, in fact, so that no one would recognize me), these questions raced through my head: Why is this happening? What did I do to deserve this? What is God trying to tell me?

In so many ways, these were the very questions parents and resource speakers were grappling with at the convention. Faced with powerful forces that tug and pull at families today, we had to ask ourselves these questions: Why is this happening to our families? What did we do to deserve a situation like this? What is God trying to tell us about our role as parents?

Important lessons for the working mom

A powerhouse of parenting advocates came in full force to offer lessons and, more importantly, to offer hope not only for our nuclear families but for our country as well. A recurring theme weaving through the different sessions conducted by over 30 speakers is the need to raise our children as leaders. It is not enough that we bring up our children to be obedient and loyal, we must consciously direct them to be mission-oriented, to harness the power of influence only for the greater good, and to constantly seek the welfare of others. This was the battle cry in many discussions—if our families or our country doesn't deserve the situation we are in, it maybe because we have not deliberately planned our role as parents.

Following are important lessons from three of the most powerful speakers in the convention.

Raise your children to be leaders. Guillermo M. Luz, executive director of the Makati Business Club, defines the role of parents as formators of our country's future leaders. If there is an apparent lack of good leaders in our country today, it may be because our family life didn't prepare us for authentic leadership. Luz proposed that by instilling in our children the values of nationalism, leadership as servanthood, commitment, honesty, and integrity, we will be doing our share in ensuring that our country will have a better future.

Find God in parenting. Fr. Ruben Tanseco, president of the Center for Family Ministries (CEFAM), proposed that the key to finding God's purpose for your life is in understanding your role in guiding your children. When we understand that God has a plan for each of us and that our children could be the channel of this divine purpose, then we will have the grace to bring up our children to be future leaders and assets to our country.

Manage your personal life. Anthony Pangilinan led the discussion on the parent as a juggler in the balance of life. Speaking on a topic so close to the working mom's heart, he proposed that the way to a balanced life is not to divide your time equally between your work and family. Instead, he said, focus on managing your personal life effectively first, know what you are about, what is important to you, and productivity at work will follow. In other words, balance is not about tallying the hours, it is about knowing where we want our life to go and what path we'd like our families to take.

Judging from the packed session halls and the enthusiastic participation of delegates, the discussions opened hearts and minds to the new role of parents as idols and role models for future leaders. Indeed, we didn't even need to whack too many heads to get the message through.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is founding editor of Working Mom magazine published by ABS-CBN Publishing, Inc. For more tips and strategies, get this month's issue with Carmina Villaroel on the cover. Send feedback to an_alcantara@abs.pinoycentral.com)

Pollster is (election) season's 'man of the hour'

CAREER TALES

By Cecile G. Garcia

HE is sought out and consulted by every kind of public official. His views and observations on current issues are carefully listened to or read, and his polling pronouncements during election season are eagerly awaited. He is Professor Felipe B. Miranda, political scientist and foremost authority on polling. For 41 years, Miranda has built an unsullied reputation in his chosen area of study. He is also a professor of Political Science at the University of the Philippines and presently research director of Pulse Asia, Inc., which he co-founded in 1998, serving as its president until 2001.

Pulse Asia, Inc. is a privately owned enterprise engaged in research studies on significant public concerns regarding socio-economic, political and cultural issues. It is likewise engaged in professional polling and undertakes surveys. Its team of analysts is made up of UP professors.

Surprisingly, Miranda is not a graduate of UP. According to him, he dropped out of the university during his senior year in BS Foreign Service, and subsequently obtained a scholarship, which made it possible for him to go to Brandeis University (in Massachusetts) where he studied Political Science. He graduated cum laude. Later on, he took up his master's degree at the University of Chicago.

Long road

Becoming the expert that he is today was a long process, admits Miranda. He says, "Over the years, I developed a concern for the truth with regard to politics, governance, economics and other related matters. Data could be inaccurate, I thought. The cure was to look into things. But, I knew I had to be objective. It has been difficult. But, I understand things faster and better because I don't allow biases to dominate or cloud my thinking."

Being able to integrate everything he could learn was essential. "My exposure to people with integrationist skills was a big help," Miranda discloses. In the 70s he did an in-depth study on the military within the context of martial law. This also helped, he points out, perhaps because it inadvertently provided the framework for his future endeavors.

In his job, Miranda must always try to determine "the highest priority study of the moment." He clarifies, "It can be a huge moment, and it's important to bear in mind that a study must have utility beyond research. It must have a link to society and implications for the community."

Polling work

Miranda started his polling work in 1979, and was part of the group that established the Social Weather Station (SWS) in the mid 80s. What does a pollster like him do? "I design surveys and put questionnaires together," he replies. "I look at the results of our probe and analyze them, and get the client to understand what they mean." Surveys have been around since the early 50s, he adds. "But, we've been changing for the last 15 years, and surveys have become highly professionalized. Through surveys we are assured that the public voice is there." The professor considers his role in surveys as one of his more significant contributions to society.

Lending his analytical skills to private consultancy work keeps Mi-

POLLSTER B7

Pollster is (election) season's 'man of the hour'

From page B6

randa busy as well. He's never really experienced being a full-time employee, he reveals, except of UP where he has been teaching since 1963. "I work at home as well as outside," he says. Another line of specialty is risk analysis. Ordinarily, he does this for international investment groups. Certain projects take as long as five years to finish. Though he has people helping him out, Miranda prefers doing his share of the research. According to him, the current focus is on the country's potential, economically and politically. Admittedly, he gets to be consulted by leftist groups, aside from public officials. Perhaps, one of his advantages is that he is never awed by anyone, regardless of position in government or society.

Outreach work

Miranda also makes time for outreach work, which, he says, sometimes "goes beyond pro bono." Indeed, he would go as far as using personal funds for some worthy cause or project. This is aside from providing his expertise for free.

Teaching is a very strong commitment, claims the professor. "The best thing about teaching," he says, "is essentially, you are able to help young people into rethinking their history, society and their personal lives. You are able to tell them that there are alternative ways of looking at things. They need not accept things as they are. History is not destiny." Miranda finds satisfaction in getting this across to his students.

Mentors

As a student, Miranda feels, he was fortunate to have had "significant mentors" and the best teachers. Referring to the former, he recounts, "My former significant mentor was my high school English teacher, Regina Sanchez. She assisted me morally and financially and helped me continue my studies at UP. There was also my history professor in college, the author Teodoro Agoncillo, who opened up the world of Philippine history to me and allowed me the use of his library and other resources."

As well, he has glowing words for O.D. Corpus, former president of UP and earlier chairman of the UP Department of Political Science. "He was one of the very best teachers I ever had," declares Miranda. "He was the one who encouraged me to join the faculty of his department."

Characteristically, Miranda always went out of his way to seek the best teachers, choosing those whose academic reputation could not be questioned. His teachers, says Miranda, became a strong influence on him and on some of his choices.

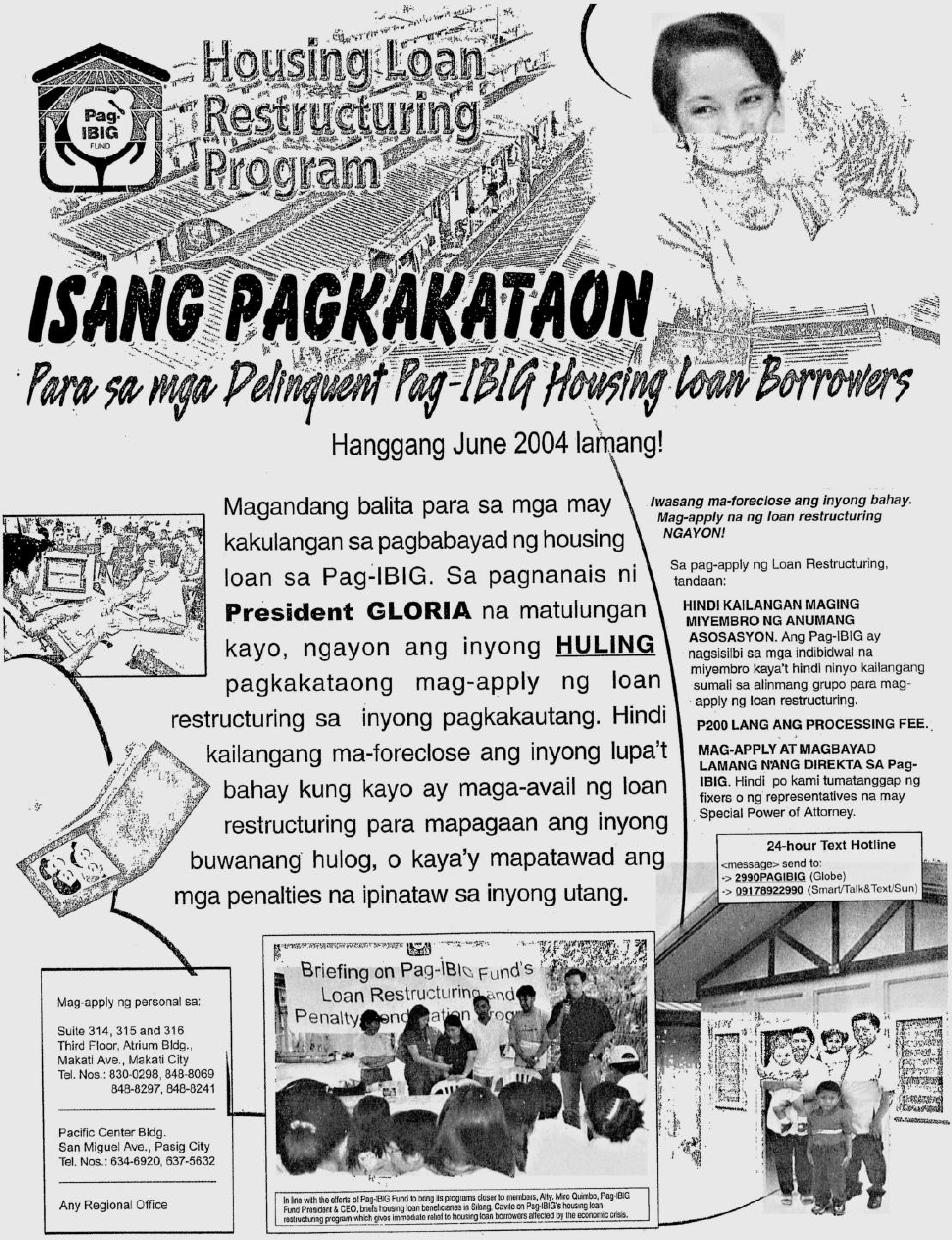
Green thumb

On the more personal side, the 61-year-old professor has been married to his wife Rosa Linda, a former professor at UP, for 18 years. They have two boys and two girls. Miranda says he relaxes by driving to Subic with his family on weekends. Here, he can take delight in tending his small orchard where the fruit trees in blossom attest to his green thumb.

A Batangueño, Miranda believes that in part, foundation determines our destiny. "Foundation refers to our family and milieu. I was lucky because I was brought up by liberal-minded parents who were also strongly religious. They allowed me and my siblings to develop." Indeed, even at a young age, he was encouraged to speak out and express his opinions, to participate in discussions.

FELIPE B. Miranda ROGER MARGALLO

Growing up amid discourse, affirms Miranda, prepared him for what he was to become. "I would not be what I am today, if I had been brought up differently," he says.



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In line with the efforts of Pag-IBIG Fund to bring its programs closer to members, Atty. Miro Quimbo, Pag-IBIG Fund President & CEO, briefs housing loan beneficiaries in Silang, Cavite on Pag-IBIG's housing loan restructuring program which gives immediate relief to housing loan borrowers affected by the economic crisis.

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AFP

NO ROOM AT THE INN
Two unidentified tourists make their way out of a guest house after failing to find a room at Bangkok's backpacker mecca of Khao San Road. The Thai Hotel Association expects to see 10,000 new rooms built this year. The kingdom, which is still recovering from the 1997 financial crisis, currently has about 300,000 rooms for tourists.

US unions call on Bush to file trade case vs China

WASHINGTON—Labor unions in the United States yesterday asked the Bush administration to impose economic sanctions on China because of the country's alleged violations of worker rights.

The request, contained in a petition filed with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, represented the latest effort by American unions to highlight what they see as unfair trade practices that have led to a record $124 billion US trade deficit with China last year and the loss of thousands of US factory jobs.

The petition, filed by the labor federation AFL-CIO on behalf of its 13 million members, alleged that China was repressing worker rights and this constituted unfair labor practice as defined in Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

It marked the first time that Section 301 has been used to challenge another country's worker rights practices.

Before the creation of the World Trade Organization in 1995, US corporations often petitioned the government to bring Section 301 unfair trade cases against other countries to challenge such things as their violations of US copyrights and patents.

The government could then impose economic sanctions on countries in various areas if the administration determined that unfair trade practices were occurring.

However, lawyers representing the AFL-CIO, the largest trade union federation in the US, argue in their petition that in the area of violations of worker rights, the United States still can pursue unfair trade investigations on its own and impose sanctions without getting approval from the WTO.

The administration will have 45 days to determine whether to accept the AFL-CIO petition and launch an investigation into China's labor practices.

The AFL-CIO does not specify what sanctions it would like to see imposed. But Mark Barenberg, a Columbia University law professor, said that one way to deal with violations would be to impose penalty tariffs on Chinese products and gradually remove them if China meets certain benchmarks for improving labor rights.

Barenberg said the labor federation believed China was gaining a cost advantage through the labor rights violations of between 10 percent and 77 percent.

The labor group said that many labor violations occur when people travel from rural areas to take industrial jobs in Chinese factories where their activities are strictly regulated by a system of internal passport controls.

The petition contended that these young workers, mostly female, "often step into a nightmare of 18-hour work days with no day of rest, earning meager wages that are often withheld or unpaid altogether." *AP*

S. Korea trade rides high on ships, cell phones

SEOUL—Healthy cell phone and ship exports helped South Korea's current account surplus stay firmly in the black in January, putting it well on track to beat a full year target of $6 billion, the central bank said on Tuesday.

South Korea's current account surplus was $2.34 billion in January, the Bank of Korea said, the ninth monthly surplus in a row and up from a $460-million deficit a year ago.

"We expect the current account surplus to reach $6 billion in January-March period," said Cho Sung-jong, the head of the bank's statistical bureau.

Hot exports of ships, telecom devices and machinery underpinned the current account in January, pushing up the goods surplus to $2.98 billion, against $2.6 billion in December, when exports hit a record high, the central said in a statement.

Higher spending by South Koreans traveling abroad in January dented the services account, putting it $766 million in the red, the central bank said. This was, however, an improvement on the $1.2 billion services deficit a year ago. *Reuters*

Bank of Japan leaves easy monetary policy unchanged

TOKYO—The dollar and the euro were rangebound in Asian trading Tuesday after the Bank of Japan (BoJ) left its easy money policy unchanged ahead of a US Federal Reserve policy board meeting, dealers said.

"Participants were not looking at the BoJ decision as a market moving factor anyway," said Shigetake Nakayama, a dealer with UFJ Bank. "The decision came out as expected and it did not change the market at all."

The BoJ yesterday said its policy board had decided unanimously to leave its easy monetary policy unchanged, aiming for an outstanding balance of current accounts at the bank of about 30-35 trillion yen ($273-318 billion).

It added it would provide more liquidity, irrespective of the target if there was a risk of financial market instability.

The decision followed the release of a government report Monday which said the world's second-largest economy is continuing to recover steadily, led by solid exports and corporate spending, and indicated personal consumption is finally starting to pick up.

BoJ governor Toshihiko Fukui was due to hold a press conference at 3:30 p.m. (0630 GMT).

The US Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee, which was also to hold a policy meeting later Tuesday, was also expected to keep interest rates unchanged, dealers said.

"The market is waiting for comment from the FOMC," said Kazuhiro Kaneko, dealer at Trust and Custody Services Bank. "It may not say anything strong enough to move the market, but before they say anything, it is difficult to make moves in Tokyo."

The dollar's topside was pressured by concerns of an escalation in terrorist activity after last Thursday's bombing in Madrid, dealers added.

Some dealers said volatile dollar/yen trade in New York on Monday, which saw the US unit hit a low of 109.20 yen, left dollar-bullish speculators with losses, which could cap the greenback going forward.

The dollar stood at 110.13 yen in Tokyo in early afternoon trading, easing slightly from 110.28 yen in New York Monday.

The euro was quoted at $1.2280 and 135.29 yen, compared with $1.2264 and 135.25 yen in New York. *AFP*

Analysts still not sure of Indon finance

JAKARTA—Six years after a bailout costing some $60 billion, investors still need to be convinced Indonesia's banks can safely deliver the rapid rates of credit growth that are key to improving the country's ho-hum economy.

Profits are rising, bad loans are down and capital adequacy ratios are well above international norms. The government is steadily selling stakes in banks it nationalized during the 1997/98 meltdown, and some are benefiting from infusions of foreign capital and management expertise.

Yet two recent banking frauds and persistent talk among bankers and analysts about extensive politically directed lending by state-owned banks are fueling palpable unease about the underlying health of parts of the sector.

In a recent report, the Economist Intelligence Unit said the sort of shady lending practices that precipitated the 1997 crisis were likely to continue.

"Combined with Indonesia's endemic corruption, short-term lending buoyancy could in fact develop into a medium-term bubble that will burst into another, albeit smaller, banking scandal," the EIU said. *Reuters*

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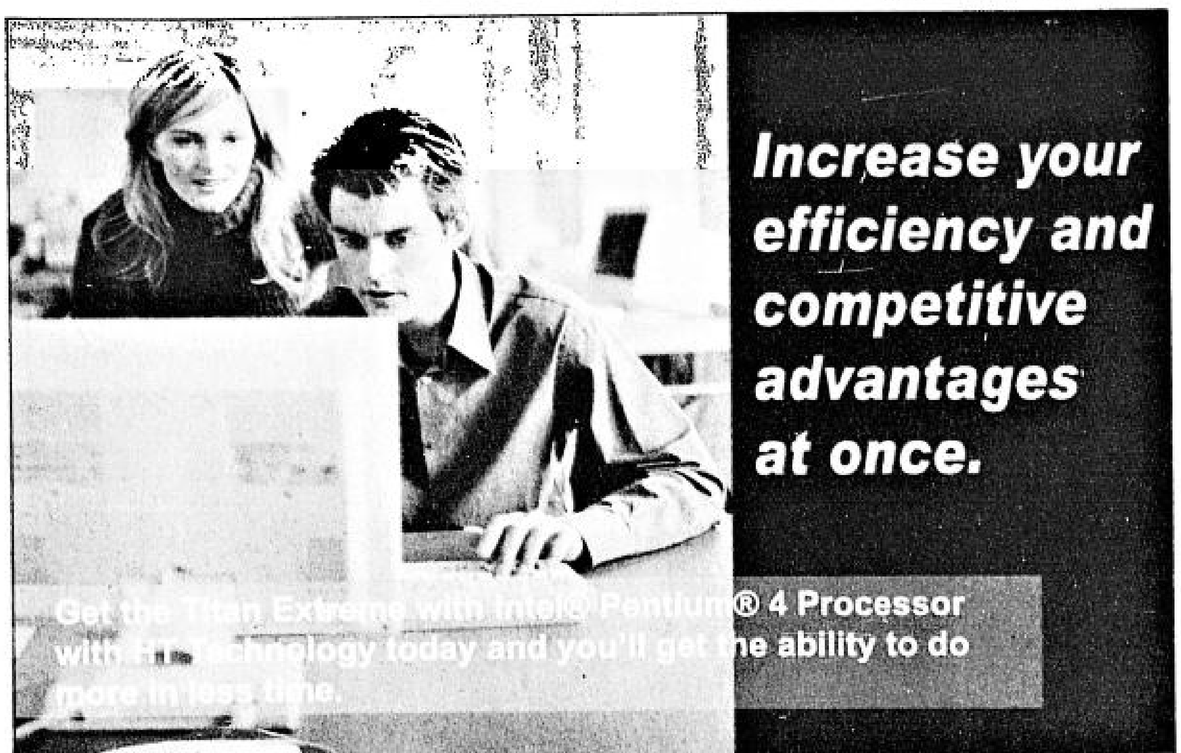
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Asian stocks dip

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks slipped on Tuesday, led by exporters such as camera-making powerhouse Canon Inc., as security concerns ripple around the world after the Madrid blasts.

The dollar rose 0.3 percent to 110.38 yen on suspected Japanese intervention before easing. Oil slipped on profit taking after flirting with a one-year high, but is supported by fears that future attacks could disrupt oil supplies.

Bonds rose as investors sought safe holdings.

Bookmakers in London said they expected European shares to fall further on aftershocks from the Madrid blasts, amid increasing signs of an al-Qaida link. However, the main focus is on a review of interest rates from the US Federal Reserve later in the day.

Falls in Japanese exporter stocks were cushioned by optimism over the strength of an economic recovery, which boosted domestic stocks such as property issues like Sumitomo Realty, up 3.9 percent.

Japan's Nikkei average closed down 0.7 percent at 11,242.29. Canon fell 1.5 percent despite saying it expected record profits in the January-March quarter.

Car makers Toyota Motor Co. and Honda Motor both fell more than 2 percent.

"Foreign investors still have an appetite for Japanese shares as they bet on the recovery scenario," said Kenichi Hirano, a strategist at Tachibana Securities. "Banks and other domestic stocks are their favorites."

"But they could shy away if the Nasdaq faces another sell-off like yesterday's and decisively breaks below 1,900, although such a possibility looks slim given the Federal Reserve's easy monetary policy."

MSCI's broadest index of Asia Pacific shares outside Japan edged 0.08 percent lower. Stock benchmarks fell between 0.3 and 0.9 percent in South Korea, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Investors have opted for safety in government bonds and gold after last week's blasts in Madrid that killed 200 people.

Also unsettling markets was Monday's discovery of a huge car bomb outside the US consulate in Karachi, and four suspicious parcels sent to embassies in London.

A Spanish newspaper said police believed they had identified six Moroccans who planted the bombs in Madrid.

Tightly contested elections this weekend in Taiwan and political disarray in South Korea after the impeachment of the president last week have also weighed in Asia.

The dollar hit a session low of 110.03 yen, but soon shot up to 110.38 yen on suspected Japanese intervention, despite a report saying Tokyo was considering scaling back yen-selling operations. The dollar stood around 110.10 yen at 0615 GMT.

Top financial diplomat Zembei Mizoguchi said the Japanese government would continue to intervene in the foreign exchange market when it saw the need.

US stocks fell on Monday, pushing benchmark indices to new lows for the year amid concern that the economic growth in the world's largest economy may be weaker than expected.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite, in its biggest percentage fall in six weeks, fell 2.29 percent to 1,939.20. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 1.34 percent.

Oil fell 19 cents to $37.25 a barrel to stand just off $37.51 hit last week, the highest price since just before the US-led invasion of Iraq last March. *Reuters*

Report: China processed 22 M tons of oil in Feb.

BEIJING—China processed 22.03 million tons of crude oil in February, a rise of 21.1 percent from the year-earlier period, and just below January's record levels, official figures showed.

The State Statistical Bureau revised the January processing figure to 22.52 million tons.

Crude runs totaled 44.55 million tons in the first two months, up 19.4 percent from the same period last year, the bureau figures showed.

Driven by fast-growing demand, China processed 169.32 million tons of crude oil in 2003, up 1.5 percent from 2002. *Reuters*

4 Japan banks' ratings improve

TOKYO—Moody's has revised the rating outlook of four Japanese banks to stable from negative.

These banks are 77 Bank Ltd., Chugoku Bank Ltd., The Norinchukin Bank, and Shinkin Central Bank.

Their credit ratings and bank financial strength ratings are unaffected.

The rating outlook change is prompted by improved operating environment, evidenced stable performances of those banks in terms of balance sheet risk management, their better bank financial strength ratings characterized by adequate to high regulatory capitalization, and unchanged franchises of each institution.

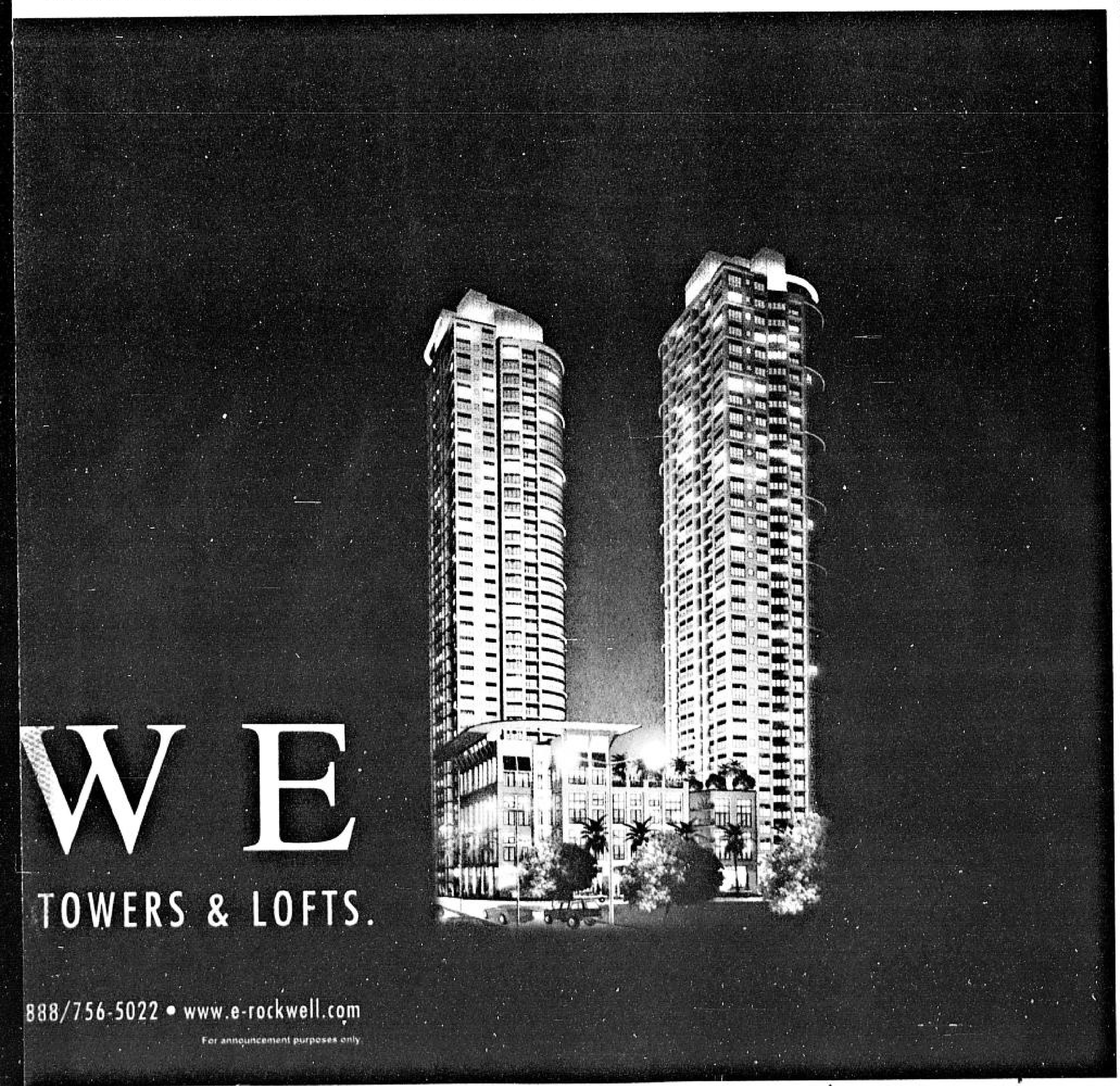
Though Moody's do not expect the earnings environment for those institutions to be robust, their financial fundamentals are expected to remain solid. The revised rating outlook also reflects the positive evaluation of safety net available for the Japanese banks.

The 77 Bank Ltd., headquartered in Sendai, is the largest regional bank in Miyagi Prefecture. Its consolidated total asset size was around 5.3 trillion yen as of September 2003.

The Chugoku Bank Ltd., headquartered in Okayama, is the largest regional bank in Okayama Prefecture. Its consolidated total asset size was around 5.5 trillion yen as of September 2003.

The Norinchukin Bank is headquartered in Tokyo, and its consolidated total asset size was around 61.3 trillion yen as of March 2003.

The Shinkin Central Bank, headquartered in Tokyo, and its consolidated total asset size was around 27.9 yen trillion as of September 2003. *Reuters*



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Editor Aries Espinosa

Int'l trade show to mobilize OFWs for RP investments

AN INTERNATIONAL trade show is being geared to mobilize the growing dollar resources of overseas Filipinos worldwide (OFWs) for local investments through corporate and entrepreneurial endeavors.

Slated at the SM Megatrade Hall 3 in Mandaluyong City from April 16 to 18, the 2nd OFW Trade Show & Seminar is counting on the participation of various sectors of the local and global industry for the OFWs' guidance on investment areas, especially with the current surge in the value of the greenback.

"The continued appreciation of the dollar has further increased the OFWs' financial capability, more so with the growing availability to Filipinos of high-paying overseas jobs like nursing, teaching, and info technology-based professions, among others," said Norman Gacula, president of the OFW International Holdings Corp, the business arm of the OFWNet Foundation, the trade show organizer.

"Thus, the OFWs have collectively become a powerful economic sector whose resources can be mobilized, not just for consumption, but more so for investments that can increase national productivity through entrepreneurship," Gacula explained.

In 2002 alone, the country's 8 million OFWs accounted for over $8 billion in annual remittances equivalent to around half of the country's monthly average dollar reserves.

And with an average family size of five, the OFWs' immediate relatives in the Philippines number around 40 million, or almost half of the country's total population.

"As such, the OFW Trade Show & Seminar offers the business sector the best access to this huge market of OFWs and their relatives through the OFWNet," Gacula added.

The OFWNet is a private non-stock, non-profit organization formed by more than 1,000 migrant Filipino leaders worldwide to pursue the socioeconomic welfare of OFWs and their families.

In pursuit of that goal, the OFWNet has created the OFW Holdings as the umbrella corporation of the various businesses that will be spawned by pooling the resources of migrant Filipinos for investments.

Many of these potential businesses will be determined in the three-day OFW Trade Show & Seminar, which will serve as an entrepreneurship forum.

The seminar will show the basic steps in setting up a business, the different business models and existing markets, the financial requirements, and the vital entrepreneurial network and corporate linkages.

Those interested to join the exhibit may call event manager Fiera de Manila Inc. (896-0639/37, 899-6893; fax 896-0637, 890-2101; e-mail fiera@info.com.ph; or visit www.fmi.com.ph).

The exhibitors include Sun Life Financial, Ayala Life Assurance Inc, Filinvest Land Inc, Federal Land, ATT Aqua Treatment Technology Inc, Asia Pacific Caregiver & Healthcare Training Center, Pizzito, Mobile Car Wash, Global Digital Campus, Crown Asia, Insular Life, Graficad Creation, NTT Feloow Co Inc, Stateland, Philamlife, Well-Family Maternity Clinic, Western Union Money Transfer, Dolmar Realty Ventures, TNT Worldwide Express, Nacho King, and Informatics Philippines, with Overseas Pinoy TV, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Times, and OFW Hour as media partners.

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McDonald's adds another feather on its cap with the recent award received from SuperBrands, an independent arbiter of branding, an that promotes the discipline of branding, and pay tribute to exceptional brands through its international series of publications. The award is given to brands that offer consumers significant emotional and/or physical advantages over its competitors that consumers want, recognize, and are willing to pay a premium for. Zonito Torrevillas, McDonald's PR manager, says 'McDonald's is honored and proud of this distinction. This is a reinforcement that McDonald's is one of the most loved and well-known brands in the world today.' Shown, from left, are SuperBrands Asia president Peter Jefferey, Torrevillas and DTI Assistant Secretary for consumer welfare and trade regulations group Norman dela Rama Jocson.

Maintaining leadership in the CVS industry

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp, the licensee operator of 7-Eleven Food Stores in the Philippines, celebrates today the inauguration of its 204th store at the corner of Edsa Central Shopping Complex and United Streets, Mandaluyong City.

The 204th Grand Store Opening also coincides with the celebration of 7-Eleven's 20th Foundation Day. On Feb 29, 1984, 7-Eleven opened as the first retail establishment in the country to serve the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That first store was located at the corner of Kamias Street and Edsa. During the formative years of its existence, the country was undergoing political and economic turmoil. Annual inflation rate peaked at 40 percent while bank interest rates at 60 percent per annum. 7-Eleven withstood these difficulties.

In 2003, the company was able to generate a modest profit. This was brought about by systems and infrastructure improvement efforts such as the Efficient Ordering and Distribution System (EODS), the New Accounting Information System (NAIS), and Value Added Network (VAN). These improvements were brought about with knowledge transfer and strong technical support from the company's majority shareholder, President Chain Store Corp, the largest retailer in Taiwan and the third largest 7-Eleven stores chain worldwide.

With its improved operating systems and infrastructure, and continued development of new marketing programs, 7-Eleven Philippines aims to maintain its leadership in the local convenience store industry not only in terms of store number, but also in providing excellent service, value and convenience to its customers.

KOREA EPLUS T'S NEW CLEAN AIR MACHINES

In line with its full support of the Clean Air Act, Korea Eplus T Philippines now offers exclusively two products that would definitely help in clean air management. The first product is the Portable 4/5 Gas Analyzer, which measures automotive emissions with chassis dynamometer and engine tune-up. It has outstanding accuracy and stability and is easily transportable, weighing only 4.5 kilos. The 2nd machine, the Opacimeter (OP120) is a real-time smoke measurement meant for diesel engines and offers higher accuracy than that required by international standards. Further, its pulsed green LED has infinite life expectancy. These two machines are ready for interface, computer programmable and is user friendly. Korea Eplus T Philippines is a wholly owned Filipino company whose engineers are Korean trained. The two machines are ISO compliant and have been awarded by the Korean government with a certificate of excellence. The company also offers full after sales service even after the 1-year warranty on parts and labor expires. Explaining the finer points of the Gas Analyzer machine is chief engineer James Lee (right) with (from right) Wilivit Red, Korea Eplus T Philippines president, Dr. Dong Sung Park, Korea Eplus T president, Simon Sung and Korea Eplus T Philippines engineer Eric Penaverde looking on. Interested parties can call the company at 687-2738, 687-2706, 687-3177 or 687-2731, or 0918-3233729.

Ranger financing promo extended

FORD Philippines kicks off the year with a treat for its customers by making the Ford Ranger easy to own-thanks to the "Low Ranger, High Downpayments Away!" financing promo now available until March 31.

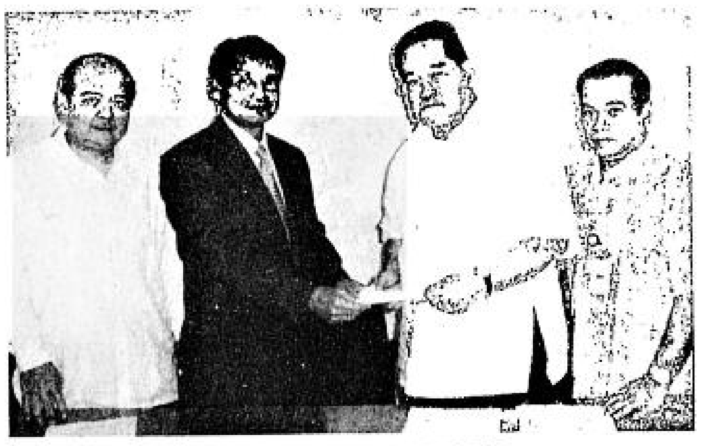
Owning the Ranger has never been easier with these low down payment or low interest financing promos. Choose from among affordable down payment plans for as low as 10 percent or P86,000 for the Trekker and P106,000 for the 4x4 XLT or low interest plans with free 3 years of extended warranty. Customers can also enjoy zero interest for the first 12 months at a low down payment of P172,000 on the Trekker, P212,000 on the 4x4 Ranger and P227,000 on the Ranger Limited Edition 4x4.

Experience the power, safety and comfort of the Ranger with its 2.5L Intercooled Turbo Diesel Engine churning 117 horsepower and 280 NM of pulling power. Passenger safety is enhanced with its Side Impact Bars, Dual Airbags, Limited Slip Differential and Anti-Lock Brake System with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution system. Driving pleasure is guaranteed with its all-power features, remote keyless entry and radio with in-dash CD and 4-speaker system.

Waste no time and visit the following Ford dealerships: in Metro Manila, Ford dealerships can be found in Alabang, Balintawak, Edsa, Libis, Makati, Quezon Avenue, Commonwealth, Shaw Boulevard, and Manila. In the provinces, Ford can be found in Cabanatuan, Pampanga, San Pablo, Dagupan, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

Nu Skin Philippines at 6

NU SKIN Philippines general manager Mannix Lopez recently announced the holding of a grand Success Seminar to commemorate the company's 6th anniversary. Slated on March 18, 6 p.m. at the RCBC Plaza in Makati City, the anniversary event will be a convergence of top Nu Skin management as well as its successful distributors from around the globe. The Success Seminar has the theme "Go Blue, Stay Blue", and will have the awarding of High Pin awardees including the recognition of the new Filipino Blue Diamond, product launches and inspirational talks from "who's who" in the Nu Skin business. NSPI is an affiliate of Nu Skin Enterprises Inc. For inquiries on Nu Skin Philippines' anniversary event, call the distributor hotline 689-0333 or log on to www.nuskin.com.ph.



REAL BANK 34TH BANCNET MEMBER

BancNet remains to be the largest ATM network with the signing of thrift bank Real Bank as its 34th member. BancNet chair Angelito Villanueva (2nd from left) and president Ricardo Chua (left) welcome Real Bank chair and president Jose G. Araullo (2nd from right) and SVP-treasurer Edgardo Ignacio into the BancNet family. Now on its 14th year, BancNet allows its cardholders to conveniently and securely use their ATM cards not only for balance inquiry and cash withdrawals but also to pay bills buy things and transfer funds.

DEPED MAKATI'S OUTSTANDING TEACHER

DepEd Makati and the local government recently chose the 2003 outstanding teacher during the annual Christmas party and teachers' day celebration held at the Makati Coliseum Dec. 17. Elena R. Ruiz, the Schools Division Superintendent, awarded the plaque of recognition to Erlinda R. Estrella for being the most outstanding teacher in the elementary level. A Grade 5 teacher at Francisco Benitez Elementary School, Estrella is also the district Filipino and journalism coordinator of Makati IV. She enrolled at National Teacher's College and graduated with a degree in Elementary Education in 1967. Estrella is married to CPPO James J. Estrella of Taguig-Pateros Probation Office.

Made for U merchandise

AS ELECTION 2004 nears, ingenious ways to attract the attention of the voting population come up. Candidates for elective positions, sponsoring organizations and campaign leaders have made a mad dash for election paraphernalia that have always been part and parcel of the local election campaign machinery. One of the longest-running and largest customizers in the country today is Made for U. It offers and utilizes state-of-the-art merchandising technology to satisfy customer requirements for personalized giveaways that are made to last. Visit the shop at the upper ground floor of SM Southmall, level 2 of Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, and level 2, Ayala Center Cebu at the Cebu Business Park.

RTU entrance tests

THE RIZAL Technological University accepts applicants for admission to its Boni Avenue and Pasig Campuses for school year 2004-2005. Entrance examinations are conducted at the RTU Guidance Center every Friday until April at its Boni Campus, Mandaluyong City. Interested applicants may inquire from Dr. Crema Basuil, director of the Guidance Center, Room 311 ITC Building, RTU Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City. For those interested to enroll in the masteral and doctoral programs, see Dr. Amelita L. de Guzman, dean of the RTU Graduate School at Room 205, ITC Building, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

Mercury Drug promo

AMPALAYA Plus and Mercury Drug have launched a special discount promo effective until May 15. This tie-up promo will allow Ampalaya Plus consumers to a P50 discount for every purchase of a box of Ampalaya Plus capsules upon presentation of a discount coupon in all Mercury Drug outlets nationwide. Ampalaya Plus 3-in-1 (Ampalaya-Banaba-Luyang Dilaw) herbal formulation is the only *ampalaya* food supplement backed up with clinical studies from the UP College of Medicine. It is also the most affordable brand available in the market with a retail price of P6 per 550mg capsule. For more information, call 723-1828 or e-mail nsaphil@vasia.com.

UAP 30th annual confab

THE UNITED Architects of the Philippines (UAP) will be holding its 30th Annual National Convention from April 15 to 17 at the historic Manila Hotel. The convention will be attended by member architects from all over the country and will feature a trade and exhibit show of building materials, technical product presentations and seminars that will focus on matters regarding the practice of the architectural profession and the construction industry. Convention director is architect Roger T Ong, uap, and executive director for conventions and conferences is architect Alejandro O. Cua, fuap. UAP national president is architect Robert S. Sac, fuap. For more details, call the UAP national secretariat at 412-6364, 412-6374, 412-6403, or fax 372-1796.

Worldbex 2004

ON MARCH 16 all roads led to the World Trade Center (WTC) and Philippine Trade and Training Center (PTTC) for the opening of Asia's largest and ultimate construction trade exhibit-the World Building and Construction Exposition or Worldbex 2004. The first three days of the construction trade exhibit is open to architects, interior designers, contractors, developers, engineers and prospective agents who seek to gain important tips straight from experts and see the latest products and services in the construction industry. The general public and students are all welcome to visit Worldbex 2004 on March 19 and 20. Admission is free. Worldbex 2004 will once again promote products and services from countries such as Australia, Malaysia, Korea, China, Taiwan, France, United States, Europe, New Zealand, Canada, Germany and United Kingdom. In conjunction with Worldbex 2004 is the 6th Worldbex Seminars on March 17 and 18.

Leadership skills seminar

CORPORATE Achievers Institute (COACH) (722-2318 or 727-7142) will be holding this March 30 "Executive Organization Capability Program" at the Oakwood Premiere shows the importance of strategy implementation as a potent organizational weapon to gain competitive advantage. This course reveals "the five 5 organizational infrastructures" and their role as building blocks of organization's implementation capability. It is designed for CEOs, COOs, general managers, and department and division heads. Some of the companies who have registered are Chowking, Asset Marketing, Bankard, Pfizer, Getz, Toby's Sports, Bio Care Health Resources, Bounty Agro Ventures, and the STI Educational Services Group.

PSLIS 3-day seminar

The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS) will hold a 3-day seminar-workshop on "Developing/Enhancing the Cataloguing and Indexing Skills of Librarians,Non-Librarians and other Library Personnel/Information Specialists" from March 17 to 19 at the 12th Floor Social Hall Security and Exchange Commission Building, Edsa, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries call Beth 932-1295, Joven 527-9672, Lynn at 724-1994 or Medy at 897-8808 local 329/330.

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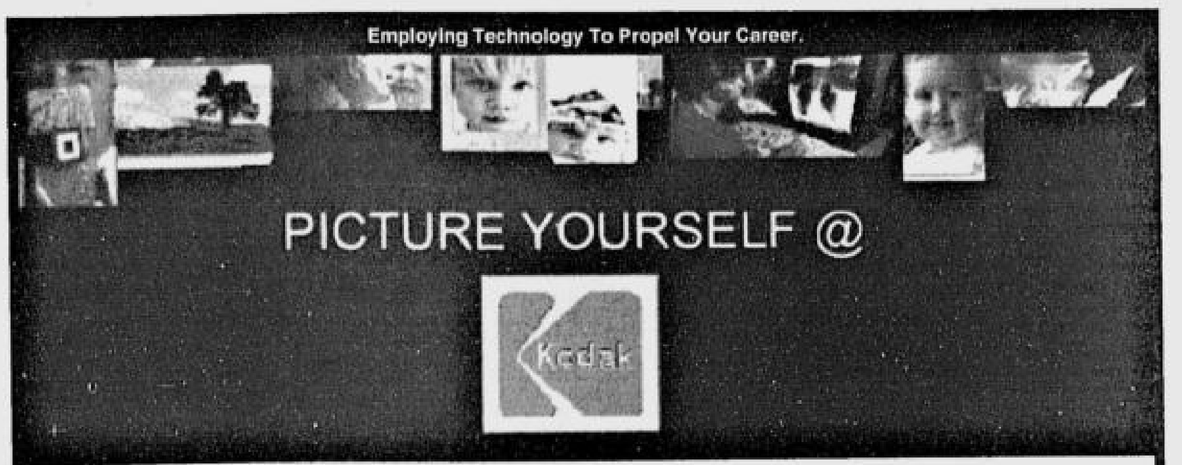

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Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late JOSE HERRERA TANCIONGCO has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 16, Page No. 4, Book No. X, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Jorescel S. Panganiban of Balanga City. (PDI-March 17,24&31, 2004)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development II

SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL

Barangay Rosario, Zamora Street, Santiago City, Isabela
Telephone # (078) 682-8123 Fax # (078) 682-7687

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL**, Santiago City hereby invites interested suppliers to provide Drugs and Medicines, Laboratory, X-ray, Medical, Office and Janitorial Supplies to this office.

Only duly accredited manufacturers/suppliers as certified by the DOH may participate in the bidding. Bid documents can be secured from the SIGH HOBAC secretariat, Administrative Services Section upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP500.00.

ACTIVITY	DATE/VENUE
➢ Issuance of Bid Documents / Submission of Application for Eligibility/Certificate of Registration	March 22-April 06, 2004 Monday-Friday
➢ Pre-Bid Conference	March 26, 2004/Conference Room 9:00am - 12:00nn
➢ Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids 1. Drugs and Medicines	April 12, 2004/Conference Room 9:00 am
2. Office Supplies	April 12, 2004/Conference Room 1:30 pm
3. Medical, X-Ray & Laboratory Supplies	April 13, 2004/Conference Room 9:00 am
➢ TWG-result should be submitted	April 19-27, 2004
➢ Post Qualification	April 28-29, 2004
➢ Notice of Award	May 14, 2004

The SOUTHERN ISABELA GENERAL HOSPITAL reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the proposal received, or to accept such bids as maybe responsive and advantageous to the government.

For details, contact NOVELINDA P. CALEJA - HOBAC Secretariat Head, SIGH.

(Sgd.) **JOSE ILDEFONSO B. COSTALES, JR, MD, MHA, FICS**
Chief of Hospital I

(PDI--March 17 & 22, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Eastern Samar
Municipality of Balangiga
TeleFax No. (055) 578-3018

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

1. Name of Project : **Construction of Balangiga Water Supply System (Level III)**
   Location : Balangiga, Eastern Samar
   Contract Duration : 180 Calendar Days
2. The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of Reservoir Facilities, Chlorination Facility, Reservoir Development, Administrative Building, Transmission & Distribution Facilities, Fire Hydrants, Household Meters & Rehabilitation Works.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to Bid is **P22,157,889.58**, from JBIC Pipelined thru Land Bank of the Philippines.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to contractors with at least "Medium B Category" Water Supply.
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by LGU of Balangiga in the bidding. Eligibility requirements shall be based on the provisions of the IRR of R. A. 9184 otherwise known as "Government Procurement Reform Act."

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Time	Venue
Submission of Letter of Intent & Issuance of Eligibility Form	March 18-19, 2004	During Office Hours	BAC-Secretariat Office
Submission of Eligibility Statement	March 23, 2004	2:00 P.M.	SB-Session Hall, Mun. Bldg., Balanggiga, E. Samar
Pre-Qualification	March 24, 2004		-do-
Issuance of Bid Documents & Site Inspection	March 29, 2004	2:00 P.M.	-do-
Pre-Bid Conference	March 30, 2004	2:00 P.M.	-do-
Submission & Opening of Bids	April 12, 2004	2:00 P.M.	-do-

6. Bidding Documents will be available at the Municipal Engineer's Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00
7. This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules & Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as "Government Procurement Reform Act."
8. The LGU Balangiga reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility of all bids or request or registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **MARILOU C. BAJADO**
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-March 11 & 17, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City
Tel. no: 3378812 • 3373549 • 3376006 Telefax: 3384219

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City invites all interested dealers/suppliers of fertilizers to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the procurement of the following items:

4,397 bags	46-0-0 (Urea)
879 bags	Complete Fertilizer (14-14-14)
586 bags	Di-ammonium Phosphate (16-20-0)
5,862 bags	

Allocation/Distribution by Province:

Aklan	1,582 bags	Urea
Antique	938 bags	Urea
Capiz	879 bags	Urea
Gumaras	60 bags	Urea
Iloilo	938 bags	Urea
Neg. Occ.	879 bags	14-14-14
	586 bags	16-20-0

Approved Budget P2,931,000.00
Minimum Required Bid Security: 73,275.00

The following are the related activities and schedule:

• Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent & Eligibility Requirements	March 24, 2004 not later than 5:00 p.m.
• Issuance of Bid documents	March 26, 2004
• Pre Bid Conference	April 6, 2004 9:00 a.m. DA War Room
• Deadline for Submission of Bids	April 20, 2004 9:30 a.m. DA War Room
• Opening of Bids	April 20, 2004 10:00 a.m. DA War Room

Bid proposals exceeding the stated Approved Budget shall be rejected outright.
All Bids shall be marked "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (date & time of opening of Bids)" and addressed as follows:

The Chairman, BAC
Department of Agriculture RFU6
Parola, Iloilo City
Bid. No. 2004-04

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defects or formality therein, and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RICARDO D. OBLENA, CESO III**
Regional Executive Director

(PDI--March 11 & 17, 2004)

Eten pocket PC launched

I'TECH INC., together with Microsoft and airborne access launches the Eten Pocket PC phone edition.

The P300 or the P700 has been personalized to fit the simple individual down to mobile professionals and the business enterprise. At present, technology convergence is happening at such a rapid pace that many businesses feel overwhelmed. They have yet to fully explore and realize the potential business benefits. As such, enabling more and more businesses to benefit from cost economies and gains in productivity.

The P300 and the P700 are E-TEN's Range of Pocket PC phones powered by Microsoft Windows mobile 2003. The P300 is armed with an arm 9 processor, a 64MB RAM, a built in camera, and an sd/mmc expansion slot, while the P700 is armed with an Intel XSCALE 400 MHz processor, a 64mb RAM and a dual compact flash and sd/mmc expansion slot. Both units allow MP3, WAV, and Video Playback, are MMS/GPRS compatible, and are tri-band phones allowing use of the phone functions anywhere here and abroad.

Imagine being able to extend beyond the boundaries of the typical working environment, such as being able to pull data from the office while being elsewhere with the use of GPRS and WIFI capabilities. In addition, the SDIO slot of the p300 and the Compact Flash Slot of the P700 doesn't just limit the capability of the unit to its system, 3rd party manufacturers have been evolving and the expandability of the units just becomes infinite. Sample expansions include WIFI cards, megapixel cameras, barcode readers, global positioning solutions (GPS), Video Output, and a lot more... Additional accessories include infrared keyboards, car chargers and extra batteries.

The P300 provides built-in digital cameras that can shoot video and still images at standard VGA 640 x 480 resolution. It also supports full multimedia messaging which means that users can take pictures or video and instantly email or MMS them.

Users can also download MP3 songs and Windows Media Video to play on the enhanced Windows Media Player.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

March 9, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. Contract Code : **Sp03.LB.Lr-0002**
   Title : **Construction, Erection and Installation 1x100 MVA Power Transformer at Labrador Substation**
   Location : **Barangay Gonzalo, Labrador, Pangasinan**
   Contract Duration : **One Hundred Fifty (150) Calendar Days**
2. The works to be completed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment (except materials, and equipment specified to be furnished by TRANSCO), to complete the Construction, Erection and Installation of 230 & 69 kV Substation Equipment for LABRADOR Substation in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is **THIRTEEN MILLION SIX HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO PESOS (PhP 13,628,682.00)** from the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) of National Transmission Corporation (TransCo).
4. Application for Eligibility is open to contractors with 115 kV minimum construction experience who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract/project to be bid with the following License and Registration Particulars:
   License : **"Category B - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
   Registration : **"Medium A - Specialty: Electrical Works"**
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on **March 11, 2004**, at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, National Transmission Corporation, Ground Floor, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308, Email: rvalejandro@transco.ph, upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00 per copy.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or **before April 2, 2004**, and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted
8. Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility checking, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the Government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations and LGU's, including non-inclusion in the Consolidation Blacklisting Report issued by the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB).
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt of payment;
   - Contractor's License.
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. The Contract to be bid shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR S. GEONZON**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 11 & 17, 2004)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. MMD-TRANSCO 2004-017

PD Ref. No.: PB040315-EL0035

1. The **NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (TRANSCO – BAC) – HEAD OFFICE**, invites local bidders/contractors to apply for eligibility who are
   a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship; or
   b. Partnerships duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the interest belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   c. Corporations duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least sixty percent (60%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizens of the Philippines; or
   d. Manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors forming themselves into a joint venture, i.e., group of two (2) or more manufacturers, suppliers and/or distributors that intend to be jointly and severally responsible or liable for a particular contract, Provided, however, That Filipino ownership or interest of the joint venture concerned shall be at least sixty percent (60%), or
   e. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA).
2. Procurement of
   TRANSPORTATION SERVICES of VARIOUS TYPES of MOTOR VEHICLES for INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (i.e., Limousine, Vans, Tourist Bus, Coaster) on the 1st HALF OF JUNE, 2004.
3. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be specified in the Technical Quotation Form of the Bid Documents that will be issued
   The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to be Bid is ***P3.9 Million*** to be sourced from the Internal Cash Generation, Special Fund of TransCo.
4. The Bid Documents will be available for issuance starting ***March 17, 2004 to April 16, 2004*** at the BAC Secretarial Office, National Transmission Corporation, Materials Management Division (MMD), Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** per set
5. Pre-Bid Conference will be held on ***April 5, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
6. Deadline for submission, receipt and opening of bids shall be on or before ***10:00 A.M. of April 19, 2004*** at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg., Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. If the date falls on a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
7. All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations-A of Republic Act 9184
8. TransCo reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Corporation.
9. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO G. LABAYANI**
Chairman, Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – March 17 & 24, 2004)

LEYTE III ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(LEYECO III)
Tunga, Leyte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Leyte III Electric Cooperative, Inc., invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various Electrical Materials, Office Equipment and Services.

1. Various Pole Line Hardware & Electrical Materials.
2. NOTEBOOK: Laptop Computer.
3. SOFTWARE for Billing and Collection Unbundling of Rates.
4. Termite Control and Preventive Services of all LEYECO III building.
5. Transformer Rewinding:
   a. 19 u 25 KVA transformer
   b. 19 u 15 KVA transformer
   c. 20 u 10 KVA transformer
6. Fire Extinguisher
   a. 5 u Dry Chem. 20 lbs. (for refilling)
   b. 2 u Dry Chem. 100 lbs. (for refilling)
7. Preventive Maintenance Services (PMS) to 5MVA Power Transformer.
8. Fabrication of Meter box for CLUSTERING per Spec. 100 pcs.

SPECIFIC DATES OF UNDERTAKING

Date of Publication	March 17, 18 & 19, 2004	
Issuance of Bid Documents starts	March 22, 2004	
PRE-BID Conference	April 02, 2004	LEYECO III Conference Room
Submission / Rejection of Bids	April 05 to 23, 2004	
Opening of Bids/Quotations	April 26, 2004	LEYECO III Conference Room

Interested Suppliers to join this bidding are advised to submit accreditation requirements from date of this publication until March 25, 2004 address to the chairman of Accreditation Committee. For complete list description of Pole Line Hardware & Electrical Materials will be distributed during the Pre-bidding conference. Eligibility and Bid Forms tender documents can be obtained from PBAC secretariat at LEYECO III OFFICE upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 during the Pre-bidding conference.

The bids and awards committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defects or formally therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) ENGR. ESTEBAN L. MANLAPAS
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – March 17, 18 & 19, 2004)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for

Academic Year 2004

I. Fellowship in Adult Cardiology

- ➢ 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- ➢ PCP Diplomate
  - ✣ Deadline for submission of applications is on March 22, 2004
  - ✣ Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

II. Fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine

- ➢ PCP Diplomate
  - ✣ Deadline for submission of application is on May 24, 2004
  - ✣ Academic Year 2004 starts on July 1, 2004

III. Fellowship in Anesthesiology

- ➢ 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

IV. 1 Year Subspecialty Fellowship in:

- ➢ Cardiac Rehabilitation
- ➢ Non-Invasive Cardiology
  - ✣ Deadline for submission of application is on March 22, 2004
  - ✣ Academic Year 2004 starts on April 1, 2004

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192885303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

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ON-LINE AUCTION

www.henrybutcher.com

On the instructions of Batangas Cogen Corporation

PRELIMINARY NOTICE - ONLINE AUCTION SALE

CLOSING DATE: 7:00PM - WED. 31st MARCH & THU. 1st APRIL 2004

EXCELLENT NEW & UNUSED SUPPORT EQUIPMENT FOR COGEN POWER PLANT LOCATED: BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES

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BOILER - KANGWON 35,000 Kg/Hr @ 12 Bar Working Pressure 200°C Temperature, Two Drum Forced Draft, Dual Firing, Outdoor Type, Economizer & Forced Draft Fan
ELECTRICAL TRANSFORMERS - (2) DAIHEN Main Transformer 32.0 MVA & 19.0 MVA 115/13.8 KV, 3 Phase, 60 Hz, Step-up Transformer Outdoor; (2) DAIHEN Main Transformer 6.5 MVA 13.8/6.9 KV, 3 Phase 60 Hz, Step-down Transformer Outdoor; (1) DAIHEN Service Transformer 3.0 MVA 6.9 KV/480 V 3 Phase 60 Hz Outdoor; Surge Arrestors; 115KV Capacitive Volt Transformers; Current Transformers;
WATER PIPING - Large Qty Underground Water Piping & Fittings, 1200m HDPE Piping 700mm dia. Fusion Machine; Large Qty of Carbon Steel Pipes ASTM & Fittings; (27) Horizontal Centrifugal Water Pumps; Large Qty Gate Valves
AIR COMPRESSORS - (3) SHINIL 5nm^3/min 8-Bar Reciprocating Type Water Cooled Air Compressor; Air Receiver Tanks; Air Dryer
WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT - Horizontal Lathe HWACHEON 1500mm Length 580mm Swing; Horizontal Milling Machine NAMSUNG 1000mm Travel x 320mm Cross Travel; Column Drill; Hydraulic Press; Power Saw; Pipe Bending Electrode Drying Oven; Welders; Tools
STRUCTURAL STEEL FOR BUILDING - 5 Pre-Frabricated Steel Buildings (less cladding)
MISCELLANEOUS - UPS Electrical System

Viewing is strictly by appointment
All items may be purchased prior to auction closing date
For more details please contact Mr. Graham Ellis at 852 2910/11
E-mail: graham.ellis@henrybutcher.com

HENRY BUTCHER
GoIndustry [illegible]

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC
[illegible]
Website: www.henrybutcher.com/www.goindustry.com

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR YELLOW CORN ALLOCATION

The Department of Agriculture (DA) through the National Food Authority (NFA) shall be importing 350,000 MT yellow corn. All interested corn users and producers who want to avail of the corn allocation should submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to the NFA and should be guided by the following

1. The quality specification is yellow corngrains equivalent to US Grade No. 2 or China Foodgrade and Feedgrade category.
2. Arrival period is April to June 2004. (First tranche)
3. A P0.50/kg service fee shall be charged by the DA/NFA.
4. The cost of the imported yellow corn shall not be less than P11.00/kg., ex-1st warehouse inclusive of the P0.50/kg service fee.
5. The 350,000 MT yellow corn shall be distributed by allocation to legitimate corn users registered with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and corn producers duly certified by the Department of Agriculture (DA).
6. The volume of allocation per category shall be as follows:

Category	Volume (in MT)
Hog Raisers	100,000
Poultry Raisers	100,000
Feedmillers	100,000
Corn Producers	50,000

7. All interested corn users and corn producers shall submit a Letter of Intent which shall include the total volume to be purchased, the preferred disport and the category to which the applicant shall be considered. It must also be supported by a BAI Certification of 2004 and a copy of the Board Resolution authorizing the individual to transact business for and in behalf of the company. For corn producers, DA certification with quantity of corn allowed to be purchased shall be required. All requests that do not contain the above requirements shall be rejected.
8. The maximum volume to be allocated to the corn user shall be based on their three (3) months corn consumption requirements as reflected in the BAI certification as of 2004. The maximum volume to be allocated to the corn producer shall be based on the volume of corn allowed to be purchased as certified by the DA.
9. Corn users and corn producers shall be a given a period of five (5) working days within which to submit their Letters of Intent after the last day of publication.
10. A Commitment Fee/Performance Bond equivalent to P1.00/kilo of the total volume allocated shall be paid by the corn user three (3) days after receipt of the Notice of Allocation. Payment shall be in Cash, Manager's or Cashier's Check at NFA Central Office, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City.
11. Total payment shall be made upon receipt of the Notice of Payment from the NFA three (3) days before arrival of the vessel or the arrival of the documents whichever comes first
12. The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all offers, to waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept only such offers which in its judgement are most reasonable and advantageous to the Government
13. For further details you may secure a copy of the General Guidelines on the Importation and Disposition of Yellow Corngrains at the Marketing Operations Department, 5th Floor Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City or you may call at Tel. Nos. 712-15-72, 712-19-28, 711-74-33, 712-33-41 to 54 loc. 8514 and 8515

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARTHUR C. YAP**
Administrator

(PDI-March 17 & 18, 2004)

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Mortuary and Crematory opening soon!

Dedicated teacher, beloved sister and everybody's favorite Tita.

MARIA THERESA "MATCHANG" YULO SALAS-TAN

Surrendered her spirit to the Lord on March 15, 2004 at the age of 73.

She is survived by her sisters **PATTY** and **MA. ROSARIO** beloved cousins **EMELDA** and **ROBERT**, numerous relatives, students and friends whose lives she has touched in countless ways.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family Chapel, Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Mass will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m.

Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City on Thursday, March 18, 2004 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

JUANITA L. PE

Born on December 8, 1913

has peacefully joined her Creator on March 15, 2004 at the age of 90.

Her children **Richard & Susan, Edward (†) & Gloria; Richard & Judy Masilun, Wendy, Fred & Lee Yeng**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Christ the King Chapel in Greenmeadows, Pasig City. Interment will be on March 20, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

LEANDRO G. SINCO

of Foundation University
Dumaguete Rural Bank, Inc. and SG Bank
Dumaguete City

February 27, 1928 – March 17, 2003

His loving wife **Mira**, sons **Victor Vicente** and **Luis Leandro**, daughters-in-law **Dianne** and **Caroline**, grandchildren **Christopher, Patrick, Stephen, Matthew, Sunny, Andy** and **Carlee**, sisters and brothers, in-laws, nephews and nieces request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Schedule of Masses

Daily Novena Masses	First Death Anniversary Mass
March 9, 2004 – March 16, 2004 3:00 p.m. at the University Chapel Foundation University Main Campus Dumaguete City	March 17, 2004, 3:30 p.m. Sofia Soller-Sinco Hall Foundation University Main Campus Dumaguete City

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ALFREDO JESUS B. DUQUE

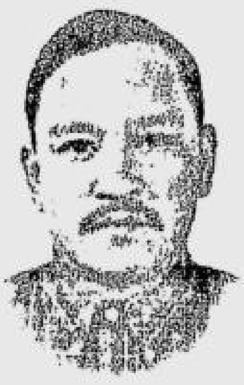
Peacefully joined his Creator on March 15, 2004.

His beloved wife **Ma. Encarnacion**; children **Jordan, Celine & Joseph**; parents **Antonio & Antonia Duque**, brothers & sisters, in-laws, relatives & friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 1 Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 21, 2004 after 10:00 a.m. Mass.

God has you in His keeping;
we have you in our hearts...



In Loving Memory
on the Second Death Anniversary of

Ramon "MON" P. Perez

February 23, 1958 - March 17, 2002

His loving wife **Susan**; children **Erwin, Mikko, Erika** and **Allen**; mother **Nanay Azon** and loved ones request relatives and friends to join them in praying for the repose of his soul.

The "Padasal" will be on March 17, 2004, 3:00 p.m. at their residence in D. Silang Street, Batangas City.

Masses will be offered at the following churches on March 17, 2004.

- ❖ St. Michael the Archangel Parish Church - Ilijan, Batangas City
- ❖ St. Francis de Paola Parish Church - Mabini, Batangas City
- ❖ Basilica of the Immaculate Conception - Batangas City
- ❖ San Roque Parish Church - Lemery, Batangas

ROSARIO LAHOZ TONGSON

(WIDOW OF THE LATE ENGR. JULIO F. TONGSON)

Died in the Grace of the Lord on March 14, 2004 at the age of 94.

Her bereaved children **Dr. Teresita, Luisito** and **Nellie Quiambao, Dolores T. Gicaro, Manuel** and **Isabelita Tapang, Benjamin** and **Bernadette** and **Mamerto Legaspi**; grandchildren, brothers and sister, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church, UP Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Craniofacial Foundation of the Philippines will be greatly appreciated.

LAZARO "LARRY" VALENCIA TOLOSA, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on March 15, 2004

His loving wife FLOR; children MELINDA and BENJIE ALCOBER, BETTINA and GEORGE STONE, JIMMY and MALOT (nee MAGALONA), LAZARUS III and LAWRENCE; grandchildren RICHARD and RYAN, REGINA and RAUL LEJANO, MATTHEW, PATRICK and COURTNEY, CHRISTOPHER and ANINA (nee RAYMUNDO), DENISE and NOEL; great grandchildren DAMIEN, CHLOE and CHICO, ENRIQUE; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at CAPILLA DELA VIRGEN, SANTUARIO de SAN ANTONIO, FORBES PARK, MAKATI CITY.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 20, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Rd., Parañaque City after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can

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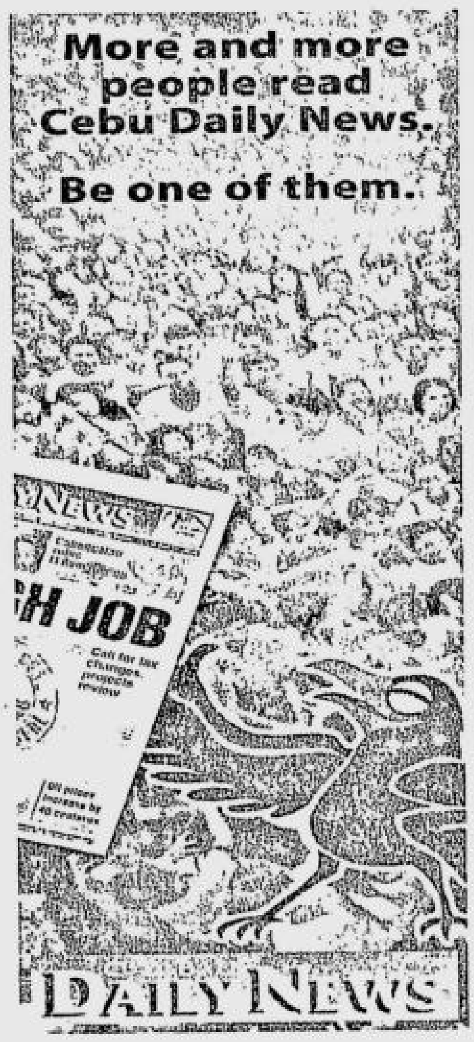
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Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
1	HIDALGO	11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	P13
2	50 FIRST DATES	11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00	R18

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Cinema	Film	Times	Rating
1	LOVE ACTUALLY	11:40, 2:30, 5:20 8:10, 11:00	R-18
2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN	11:00, 1:10, 3:20 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	GP
3	50 FIRST DATES	11:35, 1:50, 4:05 8:35, 10:50	PG-13
4	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS	12:30, 3:05, 5:40 8:15, 10:50	R 13

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HIDALGO PG13 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	LOVE ACTUALLY R18 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN GP 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
BUTTERFLY EFFECT R13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	THE CURSE R18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	50 FIRST DATES PG13 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:20

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Ali 3	HIDALGO
Ali 4	50 FIRST DATES
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Ali 6	2 MEN FROM EDEN / THE GRUDGE 2
Ali 7	OTSO OTSO

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MAR 23	NCA7-COCK DERBY
MAR 24	PBA: GINEBRA VS. STA. LUCIA
MAR 25	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LANGIT MO LIGAYA KO
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
CINEMA-3	DRAGON VS. NINJA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CARMEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KUYA
CINEMA-6	U-BELT
CINEMA-7	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-8	ANNIE B
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TORQUE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIDALGO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA-12	LOVE ACTUALLY
CINEMA-14	GOTHIKA
CINEMA-15	GRUDGE 2

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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(LAS PIÑAS)	RUNAWAY JURY
CINEMA-1	ANNIE B
CINEMA-2	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-4	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Ashton Kutcher · The BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Ashton Kutcher America's Hottest Star.

One of Hollywood's hottest stars todate, Ashton Kutcher acquired legions of loyal female followers with his portrayal of the ever-horny and dimwitted Kelso in the popular television comedy series That 70s Show, it may come as a surprise that male model-turned-actor Ashton Kutcher ironically majored in biochemical engineering at the University of Iowa before his "discovery" in an Iowa bar and subsequent stint on the catwalk for such fashion industry luminaries as Versace and Calvin Klein

Born in Cedar Rapids, IA,Michael Kutcher was bitten by the acting bug in high school. Balancing his love for the stage with his talent for wrestling before gravitating toward the former in such high school productions as Annie, Kutcher worked numerous odd jobs during his tenure at the University of Iowa before winning the Fresh Faces of Iowa contest in 1997 and heading for New York. Competing in that same year's International Model and Talent Agency competition before being signed to the next agency. Kutcher relocated to Los Angeles the following year and soon landed his breakthrough role on That 70s Show. Though he had small roles in a few major films, Kutcher's first major screen role was in the boxoffice hit Dude, Where's My Car? followed by Just Married.

His latest movie The Butterfly Effect was the 1# movie in the US and the film is even doing better overseas.

Interview

How does the recognition you're getting because of your personal life (Demi Moore) affect you?

Ashton Kutcher: It's funny because I was actually. I did "Saturday Night Live" before I ever met Demi I did the cover of "Rolling Stone" before I ever met Demi, and all of that kind of hit right at the same time So "Saturday Night Live" came out, the cover of "Rolling Stone" came out, "Punk'd" really started getting mass media attention, and then I met Demi We started, you know, spending time together, which got more attention even yet.

Do I rejoice in the fact that I can't leave my house without being followed? Um, no. I don't think that anyone would like that. It's a little creepy. But I wouldn't have it go away, because if it went away, I wouldn't be in the position that I am right now. No. you know what? I would have it go away, if I could still be in the position I am right now.

Do you have any plans to work with Demi?

Ashton Kutcher: We work together on life everyday and that's the biggest job that anybody has

If you could change anything about your past or present, what would you change?

Ashton Kutcher: I think that we can change our past. I truly believe that, and I believe that it happens now. I think this is the lesson of the movie: the actions that we make in our present life have the ability to change our past. If you have a relationship that's un-mended from our past, the opportunity's right now to go back and fix that. I think that I wouldn't change anything other than the things that I'm actively changing

ADV

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3	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4	THE CURSE
5	OTSO-OTSO
6	HIDALGO
7	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
8	LOVE ACTUALLY
9	TORQUE
10	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
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Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

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Cinema	Film
1	50 FIRST DATES
2	THE GRUDGE 2
3	HIDALGO
4	THE CURSE
5	OTSO-OTSO
6	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
7	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

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Cinema	Film
1	THE CURSE
2	LOVE ACTUALLY
3	50 FIRST DATES
4	HIDALGO
5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6	THE GRUDGE 2
7	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
8	OTSO-OTSO

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Cinema	Film
1	THE GRUDGE 2
2	LOVE ACTUALLY
3	THE CURSE
4	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
5	HIDALGO
6	TORQUE
7	50 FIRST DATES
8	OTSO-OTSO

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1	50 FIRST DATES
2	CARMEN
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	HIDALGO

big Supercenter **CAINTA** 240-4661

Cinema	Film
1	OTSO-OTSO
2	50 FIRST DATES
3	LOVE ACTUALLY
4	HIDALGO

Big R Supercenter **STA. ROSA** Laguna (049)837-0907

Cinema	Film
1	50 FIRST DATES
2	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3	DRAGON VS. NINJA
4	CARMEN
5	OTSO-OTSO

Big R Supercenter **LIPA** 757-3664 / 312-5870

Cinema	Film
1	GOTHIKA
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
4	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
5	LOVE ACTUALLY

Big R Supercenter **DASMARIÑAS** 852-2125

Cinema	Film
1	GOTHIKA
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	TORQUE
4	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Big R Supercenter **STARMILLS** 875-1927 / 961-5270

Cinema	Film
1	SKY OF LOVE
2	HIDALGO
3	OTSO-OTSO
4	CARMEN
5	TORQUE
6	DRAGON VS. NINJA

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858

Cinema	Film
1	HIDALGO
2	50 FIRST DATES
3	THE CURSE
4	BUTTERFLY EFFECT
5	OTSO-OTSO
6	THE GRUDGE 2

BACOLOD 441-0458/59

Cinema	Film
1	WATER DEMON
2	OTSO-OTSO
3	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4	GHOST HOUSE
5	21 GRAMS
6	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

ILOILO 336-8070/78

Cinema	Film
1	DUPLEX
2	RUNAWAY JURY
3	THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4	OTSO-OTSO
5	CARMEN
6	DRAGON VS. NINJA

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The Butterfly Effect

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

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MAR 25	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAR 28	PBA: SHELL VS. GINEBRA
MAR 31	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
APRIL 2	ENRIQUE IGLESIAS -7 ASIA WORLD TOUR

For tickets, call TicketNet at 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LANGIT MO LIGAYA KO
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
CINEMA-3	DRAGON VS NINJA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CARMEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KUYA
CINEMA-6	U-BELT
CINEMA-7	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-8	ANNIE B.
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TORQUE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIDALGO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA-12	LOVE ACTUALLY
CINEMA-14	GOTHIKA
CINEMA-15	GRUDGE 2

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PIÑAS)	RUNAWAY JURY
CINEMA-1	ANNIE B
CINEMA-2	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-4	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 — **HIDALGO**
11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
P13

CINEMA 2 — **50 FIRST DATES**
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:00
R18

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MAR. 19,20,26,27	"MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL"	8:00PM
MAR 17 & 18	"WILLIE NEP 4 PRESIDENT"	9:00PM

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EASTWOOD CINEMAS

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 **LOVE ACTUALLY**
11:40, 2:30, 5:20
8:10, 11:00
R-18

2 **CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN**
11:00, 1:10, 3:20
5:30, 7:40, 9:50
GP

3 **50 FIRST DATES**
11:35, 1:50, 4:05
8:35, 10:50
PG-13

4 **BUTTERFLY EFFECTS**
12:30, 3:05, 5:40
8:15, 10:50
R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City • Tel. No.: 898-1440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HIDALGO **PG13** 1:20: 4:10, 7:00, 9:50	**LOVE ACTUALLY** **R18** 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	**CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN** **GP** 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
BUTTERFLY EFFECT **R13** 12:50, 3;10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	**THE CURSE** **R18** 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	**50 FIRST DATES** **PG13** 11:20, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

Ashton Kutcher in "BUTTERFLY EFFECT."

Ashton Kutcher
America's Hottest Star.

One of Hollywood's hottest stars todate, Ashton Kutcher acquired legions of loyal female followers with his portrayal of the ever-horny and dimwitted Kelso in the popular television comedy series That 70s Show. it may come as a surprise that male model-turned-actor Ashton Kutcher ironically majored in biochemical engineering at the University of Iowa before his "discovery" in an Iowa bar and subsequent stint on the catwalk for such fashion industry luminaries as Versace and Calvin Klein.

Born in Cedar Rapids, IA,Michael Kutcher was bitten by the acting bug in high school. Balancing his love for the stage with his talent for wrestling before gravitating toward the former in such high school productions as Annie, Kutcher worked numerous odd jobs during his tenure at the University of Iowa before winning the Fresh Faces of Iowa contest in 1997 and heading for New York. Competing in that same year's International Model and Talent Agency competition before being signed to the next agency, Kutcher relocated to Los Angeles the following year and soon landed his breakthrough role on That 70s Show. Though he had small roles in a few major films, Kutcher's first major screen role was in the boxoffice hit Dude, Where's My Car? followed by Just Married.

His latest movie The Butterfly Effect was the 1# movie in the US and the film is even doing better overseas.

Interview

How does the recognition you're getting because of your personal life (Demi Moore) affect you?

Ashton Kutcher: It's funny because I was actually... I did "Saturday Night Live" before I ever met Demi. I did the cover of "Rolling Stone" before I ever met Demi, and all of that kind of hit right at the same time. So "Saturday Night Live" came out, the cover of "Rolling Stone" came out. "Punk'd" really started getting mass media attention, and then I met Demi. We started, you know, spending time together, which got more attention even yet.

Do I rejoice in the fact that I can't leave my house without being followed? Um, no. I don't think that anyone would like that. It's a little creepy. But I wouldn't have it go away, because if it went away, I wouldn't be in the position that I am right now. No... you know what? I would have it go away, if I could still be in the position I am right now.

Do you have any plans to work with Demi?

Ashton Kutcher: We work together on life everyday and that's the biggest job that anybody has

If you could change anything about your past or present, what would you change?

Ashton Kutcher: I think that we can change our past. I truly believe that, and I believe that it happens now. I think this is the lesson of the movie: the actions that we make in our present life have the ability to change our past. If you have a relationship that's un-mended from our past, the opportunity's right now to go back and fix that. I think that I wouldn't change anything other than the things that I'm actively changing

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CINEMA 1 THX 50 FIRST DATES
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT DTS
4 THE CURSE
5 OTSO-OTSO
6 HIDALGO SDDS
7 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
8 LOVE ACTUALLY
9 TORQUE
10 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12

1 50 FIRST DATES DOLBY DIGITAL EX
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 HIDALGO
4 THE CURSE
5 OTSO-OTSO
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT SDDS
7 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Big R Supercenter
METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1 THE CURSE
2 LOVE ACTUALLY SDDS
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 HIDALGO
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 BUTTERFLY EFFECT DTS
8 OTSO-OTSO

Big R Supercenter
NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1 THE GRUDGE 2 DOLBY DIGITAL
2 LOVE ACTUALLY DOLBY
3 THE CURSE DOLBY
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT DOLBY
5 HIDALGO DOLBY
6 TORQUE DOLBY
7 50 FIRST DATES DOLBY
8 OTSO-OTSO DOLBY

Citisquare
MALABON 288-0985/2575

1 50 FIRST DATES
2 CARMEN
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 HIDALGO

big Supercenter
CAINTA 240-4661

1 OTSO-OTSO
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 LOVE ACTUALLY
4 HIDALGO

Big R Supercenter
STA. ROSA Laguna (049)837-0907

1 50 FIRST DATES
2 LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3 DRAGON VS. NINJA
4 CARMEN
5 OTSO-OTSO

Big R Supercenter
LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870

1 GOTHIKA
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
5 LOVE ACTUALLY

Big R Supercenter
DASMARIÑAS 852-2125

1 GOTHIKA
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 TORQUE
4 LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

Big R Supercenter
STARMILLS San Fernando, Pampanga 875-1927 / 961-5270

1 SKY OF LOVE
2 HIDALGO
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 CARMEN
5 TORQUE
6 DRAGON VS. NINJA

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858

1 HIDALGO
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 THE CURSE
4 DTS BUTTERFLY EFFECT
5 OTSO-OTSO
6 THE GRUDGE 2

BACOLOD 441-0458/59

1 WATER DEMON
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 GHOST HOUSE
5 21 GRAMS
6 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE

ILOILO 336-8070/78

1 DUPLEX
2 RUNAWAY JURY
3 THE TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
4 OTSO-OTSO
5 CARMEN
6 DRAGON VS. NINJA

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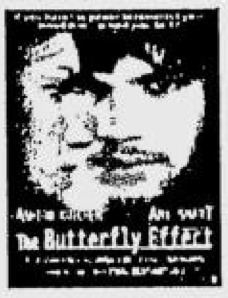

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

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The PASSION of the CHRIST

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GALLERIA Cinema 2
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March 19 (Friday)

Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA Cinema 5
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SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

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SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 THE GRUDGE 2
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
4 SORUM
5 CURSE
6 TORQUE
7 50 FIRST DATES
8 HIDALGO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 COLD MOUNTAIN
2 GHOSTHOUSE
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
5 WISHING STAIRS
6 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO
7 BONE SNATCHER
8 TORQUE

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 THE CURSE
2 CHEAPER BY THEDOZEN
3 HIDALGO
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 50 FIRST DATES
6 OTSO-OTSO
7 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
8 TORQUE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884

1 MEMENTO MORI
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
4 DUPLEX

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 THE GRUDGE 2

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 OTSO-OTSO
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 THE GRUDGE 2

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505

1 CALENDAR GIRL
2 WISHING STAIRS
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

SM STA. MESA
7140522 • 7161416

1 OTSO-OTSO
2 THE GRUDGE 2
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 THE CURSE
5 HIDALGO
6 SORUM
7 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
8 TORQUE
9 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
10 PEEP SHOW

SM SOUTHMALL
8066698

1 TORQUE
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
3 THE GRUDGE 2
4 50 FIRST DATES
5 PEEPSHOW
6 SORUM
7 OTSO-OTSO
8 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
9 HIDALGO
10 CURSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 RING 4: THE SPIRAL
2 PEEP SHOW
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 HIDALGO
5 THE CURSE
6 THE GRUDGE 2
7 50 FIRST DATES
8 OTSO-OTSO
9 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
10 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO
11 MILAN
12 TORQUE

SM CITY MARILAO

1 TORQUE
2 DRAGON VS. NINJA
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 50 FIRST DATES

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 DRAGON VS. NINJA
2 RESERVED
3 DUPLEX
4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
5 RUNAWAY JURY
6 OTSO-OTSO
7 RESERVED
8 WISHING STAIRS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901

1 COLD MOUNTAIN
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6366000
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 50 FIRST DATES
4 THE GRUDGE 2
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 TORQUE
7 SORUM
8 DUPLEX
9 OTSO-OTSO
10 HIDALGO
11 THE CURSE
12 LOVE ACTUALLY

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 50 FIRST DATES
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 PEEP SHOW

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 SORUM
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 DUDA/DOUBT
4 HIDALGO
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT
7 DUPLEX
8 THE GRUDGE 2
9 OTSO-OTSO
10 LOVE ACTUALLY
11 CURSE
12 TORQUE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 COLD MOUNTAIN
2 DRAGON VS. NINJA
3 OTSO-OTSO
4 WISHING STAIRS
5 BONE SNATCHER
6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 HIDALGO
2 TORQUE
3 CARMEN
4 BONE SNATCHER
5 DRAGON VS. NINJA
6 OTSO-OTSO

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80

1 RUNAWAY JURY
2 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE
3 GHOSTHOUSE
4 OTSO-OTSO

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1 LOVE ACTUALLY
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/10:25 LFS/10:50
LMF/1:05 END

2 50 FIRST DATES
11:25 FS/11:55
MF/2:05/4:15/6:25/8:35/10:15
LFS/10:45 LMF/12:20
END

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PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
2 50 FIRST DATES
3 THE CURSE
4 OTSO-OTSO

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 LOVE ACTUALLY
2 THE GRUDGE 2
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
4 HIDALGO
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
6 50 FIRST DATES
7 THE MISSING

GB1 GREENBELT 1
ArtFilm
1 THE MISSING 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
2 50 FIRST DATES 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:45
Onstage
REPERTORY'S DRACULA
Mar. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28

GB3 GREENBELT 3
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 50 FIRST DATES 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30
GUARANTEED SEATS 5 LOVE ACTUALLY 3:00, 5:45, 8:30, 11:15

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
THX 1 50 FIRST DATES
2 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 LOVE ACTUALLY
5 OTSO-OTSO

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to **2333**. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS) GRUDGE- 1
2 (SDDS) HIDALGO
3 (DTS) TORQUE
4 GOLD (DTS) CHEPER BY THE DOZEN
5 GOLD (DOLBY) GOTHIKA
6 GOLD (SDDS) 50 FIRST DATE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) OTSO OTSO
8 [illegible] OTSO OTSO
9 [illegible] THE CURSE
10 [illegible] BUTTERFLY EFFECTS

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) LOVE ACTUALLY
2 (DOLBY) CHEPER BY THE DOZEN
3 (DOLBY) 50 FIRST DATE
4 (DOLBY) BUTTERFLY EFFECTS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 OTSO OTSO
2 TORQUE
3 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 OTSO OTSO
HIDALGO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
5

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 SORUM
2 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3 OTSO OTSO
4 OTSO OTSO
5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 50 FIRST DATE

M star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 OTSO OTSO
2 PEEP SHOW

PREMIERE CINEMA
LUCASFILM THX
(Makati City) tel 892.2503

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 OTSO OTSO
2 BUFFALO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 POTSO OTSO
2 RED BLOODED AMERICAN GIRL
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

5 RESERVE
6
7 (DTS)
8 (SDDS)
9 (DOLBY)

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 PEEP SHOW
2 OTSO OTSO
3 OTSO OTSO
4 (SDDS) LOVE ACTUALLY
5 HIDALGO
6 (DOLBY) 50 FIRST DATE
7 (DTS) TORQUE
8 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
9 DRAGON VS' NINJA

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 RESERVE
2 (SDDS)
3 (DTS)
4 (DOLBY)
5

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 PEEP SHOW
2 OTSO OTSO
3 (DTS)
4 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
5 [illegible] TORQUE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson AMERICAN GIRL
Lords LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 OTSO OTSO
2 50 FIRST DATE
3 BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4 THE CURSE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) THE CURSE
2 50 FIRST DATE
3 PEEP SHOW
4 OTSO OTSO
5 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 TORQUE
2 OTSO OTSO

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta Center
Ali MALL CINEPLEX 7
Tel No' 911-3101 Loc 821-8242-8400

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED
3 DOLBY DIGITAL HIDALGO
4 (SDDS) 50 FIRST DATES
5 (DTS) THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT
6 2 MEN FORM EDEN / THE GRUDGE 2
7 OTSO OTSO

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) TORQUE
2 OTSO OTSO
3 (DTS ES) CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 DRAGON VS' NINJA

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 OTSO OTSO
2 LOVE ACTUALLY
3 (DOLBY) CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 (DTS) TORQUE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 OTSO OTSO
2 TOTALLY BLONDE
3 (DOLBY) WATER DEMON
4 (DTS) SOMFTHING GOTTA GIVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
2 50 FIRST DATE
3 (DTS) OTSO OTSO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1
2 (DTS) OTSO OTSO
3 (DOLBY) HIDALGO
4 50 FIRST DATE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 OTSO OTSO
2 (DOLBY) HIDALGO
3 (DTS) 50 FIRST DATE
4 SPIRAL

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 OTSO OTSO
2 GHOST HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) COLD MOUNTAIN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 OTSO OTSO
2 OTSO OTSO
3 (DOLBY) SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
4 (DTS) GOTHIKA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1 OTSO OTSO
2 GOTHIKA
3 TORQUE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
2 OTSO OTSO
3 NIGHT MARE
4 (DTS) HIDALGO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)
2 OTSO OTSO
3 (DTS) 50 FIRST DATE
4 HIDALGO
5 DUPLEX

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 OTSO OTSO
2

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1 DUPLEX
2 OTSO OTSO
3

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE
2 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3 (DTS) GHOST HOUSE
4 (DOLBY) OTSO OTSO

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS) RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 OTSO OTSO
2 GOTHIKA
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
4 LOVE ACTUALLY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 OTSO OTSO
2 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

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ben stiller drew barrymore

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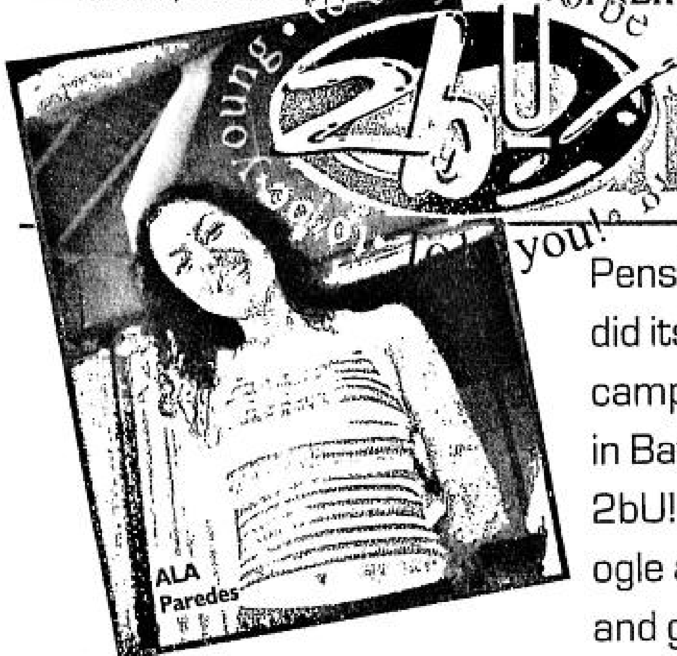

ALA Paredes

Penshoppe recently did its summer ad campaign pictorial in Batangas, with 2bU! dropping by to ogle at the models and gobble the food

ALA, Ingrid Holm and Lucy Watmore being prepped for the shoot

Surfing to a photo shoot

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

FOR PENSHOPPE, summer is a fashionable season to showcase hot goods for teenagers, the hip brand's primary target. And since everyone's headed to sundrenched beaches, Penshoppe has decided to draw inspiration from one of the hottest beach sports—surfing.

This season, Penshoppe boutiques are loaded with board shorts and swimsuits—must-buys to catch everyone's eyes.

Last Feb. 16, Penshoppe darted to Batangas to do its summer ad campaign shoot. The theme? "Own Surfing as the Distinctive Summer Look."

Lilen Uy, who has done print shoots for PLDT, Smart, Max's and Petron, among others, was tasked to capture the Club Pen models basking in summer fun, with Ace Saatchi & Saatchi working hand in hand with her.

The team was composed of production designer Dante Mendoza, art director Vinve Uy, assistant design director Mayette Enriquez, creative director Eugene Demata and executive creative director Merlee Jayme.

Visions and Expressions' Rochelle Romero and Golden ABC Inc.'s Maye Fegi were also there to witness the pictorial and make sure 2bU! was having a blast.

To find out how a typical pictorial gets done, check out 2bU!'s on-the-dot special below.

4 a.m.

Call time in Saatchi. Club Pen model Ingrid Holm arrives first despite burning down the midnight minola finishing a project. She's still a high-schooler back in Norway and was just flown in for the shoot. Models Lucy Watmore and Vince Canizares follow shortly after Lilen Uy and the production crew arrives.

4:30 a.m.

The Penshoppe van picks up Club Pen model Hamish Fraser in Alabang. Arriving 30 minutes ahead of schedule, the guys catch him still in la-la-land.

5-8 a.m.

The production team travels to Virgin Beach Resort in San Juan, Batangas. Ala Paredes and the rest of the Club Pen members get to know each other more while riding the same van along the way.

8 a.m.

The team arrives at the venue for the shoot and immediately starts setting up. Makeup artist Lala Flores works on Hamish's makeup. The Saatchi creative team and Lilen find the perfect location and set up the camera equipment by the beach.

8:30 a.m.

A drizzle threatens to pack up the shoot.

8:50 a.m.

The sun comes out of hiding and everyone happily springs

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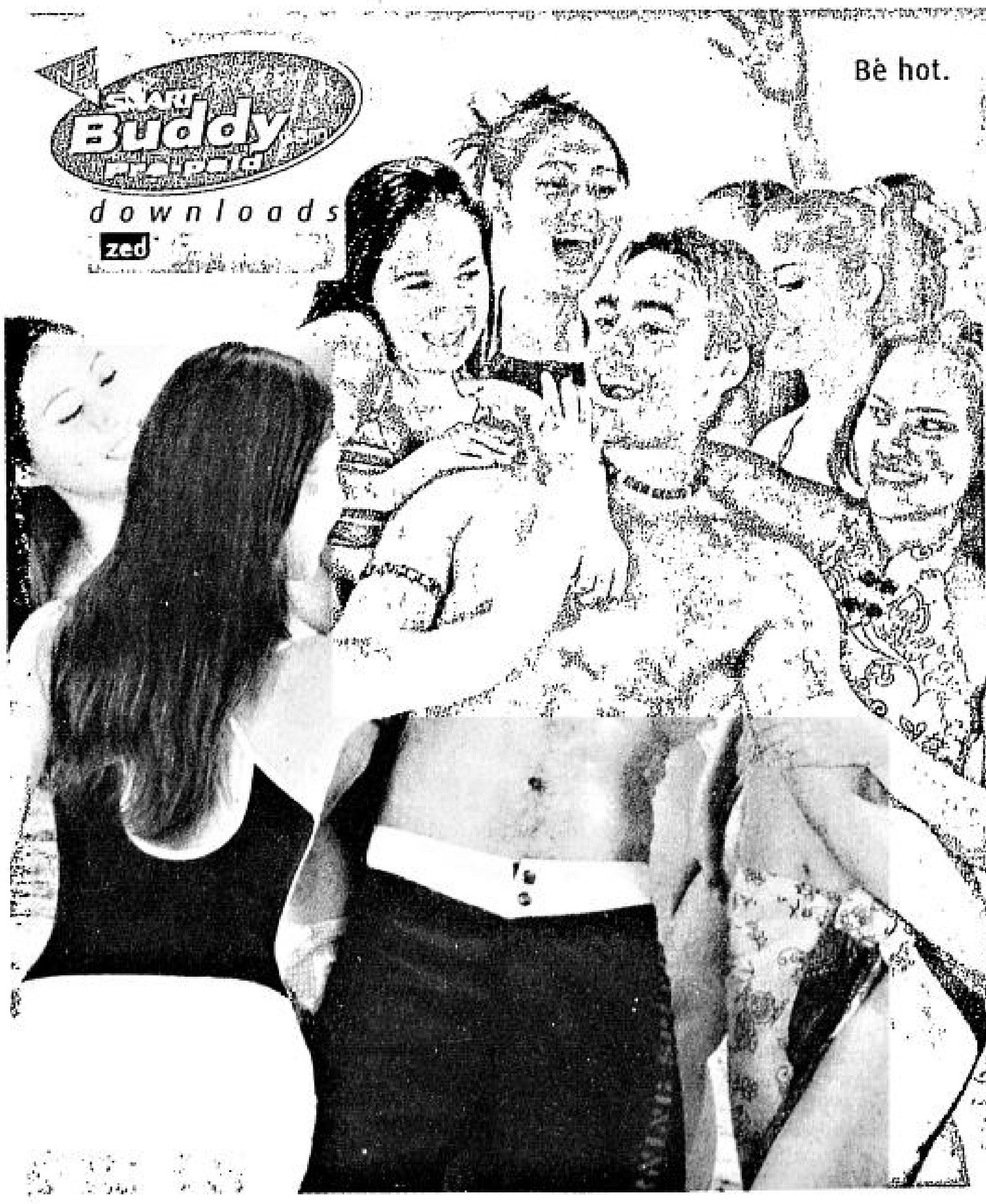

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9 214 *Rivermaya* **TONE 214**	**10** Toxic *Britney Spears* **TONE TOXIC**	**11** Mr. Suave *Parokya Ni Edgar* **TONE MRSUAVE**	**12** Have It All Ver. 2 *Foo Fighters* **TONE HAVIT2**
13 Shake Your Heads *Eraserheads* **TONE SHAKEUR**	**14** Fallen *Sarah McLachlan* **TONE FALLEN1**	**15** I Promise I Will *Stacie Orrico* **TONE IPROMISE**	**16** Iz U *Nelly* **TONE IZU**
17 You Don't Know My Name *Alicia Keys* **TONE YOUDONT**	**18** Love Is *Sandwich* **TONE LOVEIS**	**19** The Voice Within *Christina Aguilera* **TONE VOICEW**	**20** Guilty *Blue* **TONE GUILTY**

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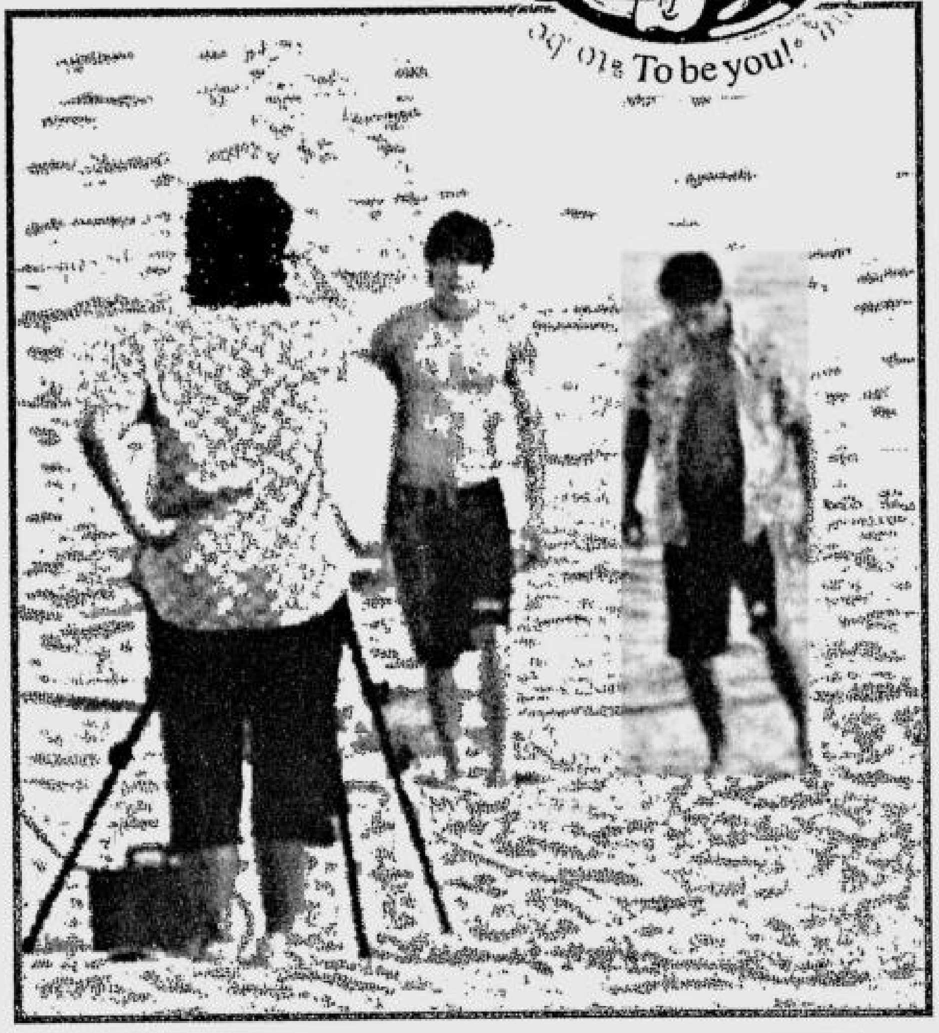


SURFER boys never fail to catch attention.

Surfing to a photo shoot

From page C1

back into work mode.

9 a.m.

Lilen shoots the first solo lay-out of Hamish, who delivers like a pro even if he's just a newbie in the industry. 2bU! correspondents arrive and grab the attention of all the models. Cogie Domingo arrives but is ignored because of the irresistible 2bU! correspondents.

9:30 a.m.

The Club Pen models have a fight over who gets to be interviewed first by the delectable 2bU! correspondents.

10 a.m.

Hamish and Vince pose for the second layout.

11 a.m.

A wet and wild Hamish is interviewed by the gorgeous Mark Sablan, who makes it a fast one because the Aussie interviewee needs to catch his 6 p.m. flight to Australia where he's set to go to college.

12 noon

Yummy lunch is served, and everyone dives for the grub like wolves. The fruit salad proves to be a blockbuster hit.

1 p.m.

Lilen shoots the three girls in Penshoppe two-piece swimsuits.

2 p.m.

Ala, Ingrid, Lucy and Vince take their cues while Mark, Marla, Rochelle and Maye finish a huge bag of Lay's potato chips in five seconds flat.

3 p.m.

Brad and Cogie take off their shirts, much to the delight of Marla, and strike poses with their surfboards (fake ones!).

4 p.m.

Everyone goes for a breather. Cogie sleeps under the sun. Brad takes to the waves. Mark, Marla, Rochelle and Maye discover there's still more fruit salad!

5 p.m.

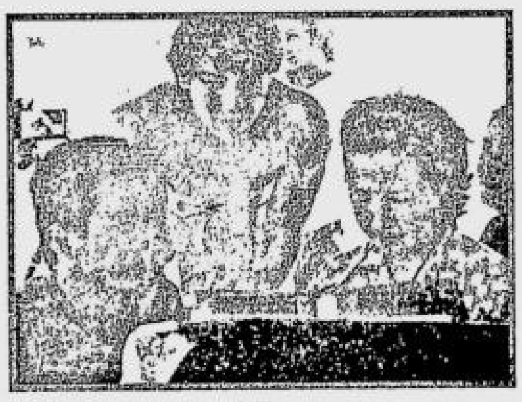
Back to the shoot! The girls pose with cones of ice cream (Rocky Road, if we're not mistaken) while Lilen takes shots.

6 p.m.

Mark bosses around and orders the models to pose for a group shot, which they do. People pack up. The 2bU! correspondents have a dramatic yet fast photo shoot of their own, with an awesome sunset as background.

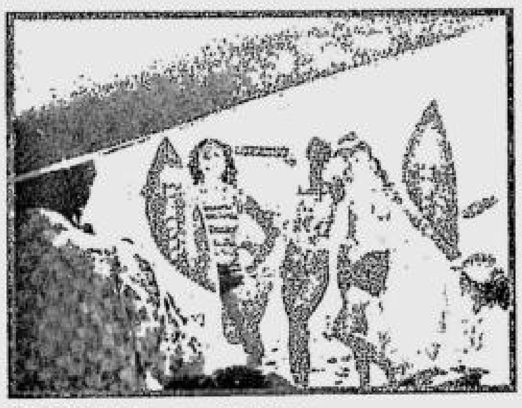
On the way home, models Ala, Ingrid, Lucy and Vince share a van ride with fellow models Mark, Marla, Maye and Rochelle. Ala and Vince whip out their laptops. Ingrid and Lucy munch on Ritz. Ala shows her pictures. Ingrid sings along to the jingle of Fortune International.

Everybody wishes to catch Aegis' remix version of their hit song "Basang-basa sa Ulan."



VINCE checks out the dailies.

YEP, makeup is a necessity even on the beach.



SURFIN' USA.... err, Batangas

IT'S the end of the day-long shoot, yet these guys are still smiling.

INGRID Holm

LUCY Watmore

Four cool Summer dudes

Text and photos by Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

A SURFER dude staple on our TV screens; a hot Cebuano with the brains, the bod and the beauty pageant-worthy lines; an adorable matinee idol you wanna take home; and an Aussie hottie headed for Hollywood stardom.

Put them all in your backpack and you've got a super fun summer vacation. They're the guys of Penshoppe's Club Pen and it's time to let 2bU! help you get to know them more.

BRAD Turvey

Brad Turvey

More popularly known as the lousy singer in that Penshoppe ad with Mandy Moore, or that guy whose name is always attached to you-know-who, Brad seems to have no time for sleeping (though he doesn't look sleep-deprived at all) considering all the stuff he's committed to.

Aside from donning Penshoppe clothes for shoots and shows, Brad appears on GMA 7's "SOP" and "Nuts Entertainment," babbles with Chico and Delamar every Monday and Wednesday, and flies to Kuala Lumpur once a month for five days as a VJ for Channel [V].

During the little free time that he has, he stares at "Smallville's" Kirsten Kreuk and listens to Richard Marx, Chicago, Air Supply and Phil Collins.

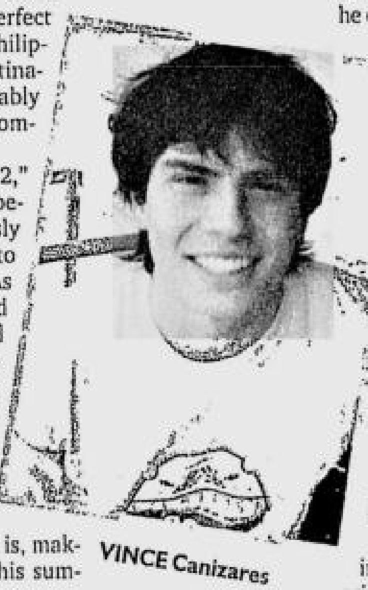
Brad's fashion style can be considered casual, since he usually opts to "dress down or under-dress" (what thoughts those words conjure!). But he does admit to being a little adventurous a couple of years ago, dyeing the tips of his spiked hair blonde or red. He's a great lover of watches, sunglasses and rings, and describes Penshoppe's jeans as "pretty cool." And he considers his all-black phase back when he was 13 as "really stupid."

Since it's summer once again, Brad's sure to lick on some cookies and cream ice cream while remembering the Gold Coast's sunrise, surfing and perfect waves. But since he's here in the Philippines, Boracay's the ultimate destination he's fantasizing about, preferably with Kirsten Kreuk as his vacation companion slash room mate.

Brad, who's "supposed to be 22," sees himself in Johnny Bravo, because he's corny. He is also obviously working on a body that's sure to make Johnny drool with envy. As someone who enjoys surfing, Brad naturally had a blast posing with all those Penshoppe surfboards (although I'm pretty certain he would've enjoyed the shoot if he had to pose with Kirsten Kreuk instead).

An authentic surfer dude with the necessary summer vibe and surfer aesthetics. That's what Brad is, making him Penshoppe's poster boy this summer.

COGIE Domingo



VINCE Canizares

Vince Canizares

It's a very good thing Vince lessened his catsup and soy sauce intake two years ago. He says he used to be flabby, but now, he has a drool-worthy bod that'd go perfect with Penshoppe's hipster briefs, which happens to be his favorite item from the brand.

Growing up in beach-filled Cebu all his life, 20-year-old Vince especially likes *kinilaw* and lemonade shakes during summer. He digs alternative music and R&B, singing out Boyz II Men's "Song 4 Mama" as a fave. Sweet boy.

He watches an awful lot of canned shows and adores "That '70s Show" and looks up to Ashton Kutcher as his style icon. Needless to say, his head's almost always covered with a trucker cap, although he complains about how hard it is to find really unique ones in the country.

Pretty chatty, this dude can speak fluent English, Tagalog and Cebuano with all the right accents. But he's not the type who'd use all these deep words just to impress people around him.

When I ask Vince for some fictional character he can see himself in, he changes pitch and tone and seriously explains how he can relate to the Daredevil.

"If I were blind I could imagine myself as him. He nurtured his talent and used it in a good way," he says. And he doesn't stop. When asked about his greatest wish (too Ms Universe, I know), he replies, "Wishes are different for me. It makes your life easier, so, for me, I'm not gonna wish for anything. I'm not like that." Whew.

With beauty pageant-worthy answers coupled with a to-die-for bod, Penshoppe sure made a nice big catch there.

Cogie Domingo

You don't need to see Cogie Domingo topless and in trunks, sunbathing on the beach, to fall for him.

Just look at those big beautiful eyes, killer smile and deep-set dimples (as if his cheeks were punctured by fine nails) and you're sure to release a weak smile or a hyperactive giggle.

He's such an adorable kid—the kind your folks would approve of, the type your *ate* would naughtily wink at, the guy your bro wouldn't mind hanging out with, especially if he's gay—that you'd want to flaunt him. Too bad he's not on every Penshoppe shirt or tag.

Cogie is one of the brand's more recognizable faces, being a fixture on the big and small screens. He recently made girls giggle in *kilig* via the teen flick "Kuya," and now he's a Sunday staple because of "Love to Love" Season 3.

Apart from modeling for Penshoppe, he's part of GMA 7's "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita!" He seems to be everywhere, but I'm sure no one's complaining.

Eighteen-year-old Redmond Christopher Fernandez Domingo digs alternative music, his ears having a soft spot for the old Eraserheads and Nirvana songs.

This summer, he'd love to feast on chicken barbecue while sipping on vanilla-flavored Zagu, with extra pearls. Just like most of his fellow Club Pen models, Boracay's that hot spot he wants to go to since Ibiza is just too distant and expensive.

Cogie's a great lover of watches, but since Penshoppe doesn't have them on the shelves, what he particularly likes from the shops are the colognes and sprays.

He's also grateful the brand has really fab and fashionable shorts and three-fourth pants for summer activities. Although summer appeals to him because it's vacation time, he's quick to say that the downside is how he's so busy with a lot of projects that he ends up not getting any vacation at all.

But given the chance to go pack for a trip without the cameras and the crew, he fancies Mikee Cojuangco accompanying him.

After doing my genie dance for him, I asked Cogie to tell me what he's wishing for. Well, not Ibiza. Not a lifetime's supply of vanilla-flavored Zagu with extra pearls. Not even Mikee and her horse.

His wish is that no one in the family gets hurt and that all his sibs finish school (okay, that's two). Now don't you just wanna take him home?

I'm sure you do, but I believe Penshoppe won't let you. He's too much of a hot property for the brand to give him up.

HAMISH Fraser

Hamish Fraser

Hamish, pronounced as if you're calling on some lady and you have a problem with your letter S, wants to hit it big in Hollywood.

Drama, action, comedy—he'd do anything, even cut or dye his hair into weird shapes, styles and shades, if the role calls for it.

But for now, he'd just have to be his plain old Aussie self as one of Penshoppe's latest endorsers. With his striking good looks, it's hard to see why he's just a first-time model, but he is, so get over it.

Right now, he's back in Melbourne for school, going for a double degree in Communication and Commerce. He has plans of becoming a diplomat.

John Mayer and Michael Buble CDs are currently on his player, while his TV set is always on every time "Fear Factor" and "Just Shoot Me" are showing.

Yet another one of those jeans-and-shirt guys, Hamish is in love with Penshoppe's shirts and board shorts. He also loooves wearing bracelets, especially the ethnic ones sold in Boracay, a memorable spot for him.

Obviously, the 18-year-old model is a worshipper of the sun, although sunburn ticks him off. The scorching season also means yummy hamburgers and relaxing dips in the jacuzzi for him.

Although Hamish is currently playing with his dachshunds back in Australia (or what he calls his sausage dogs), he'll be back in the country before long. So have patience, all you admirers, because Penshoppe is making sure we'll get to see more of Hamish in the coming years.

Next week, we give the lowdown on the Penshoppe girls.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

Pretty good, 'Actually'

By Ruel S. de Vera

IT wouldn't be too much of a stretch to assume that "Love Actually" is somehow the surprise sequel to 1994's eclectic comedy "Four Weddings and a Funeral."

Just as "Love's" teeth-gratingly pervasive theme song "Christmas is All Around" is an intentional joke done on Wet Wet Wet's "Love is All Around," so, too, is this movie something of an expansion of "Four Wedding's" premise.

The key to all of this is writer/director Richard Curtis. Curtis not only wrote "Four Weddings," 1999's "Notting Hill" (both starring Hugh Grant) as well as the screenplay for "Bridget Jones's Diary," but he also played a crucial role in developing the "Mr. Bean" (yes, that Mr. Bean) TV series that featured Rowan Atkinson.

This master of the modern comedy of British manners has thus chosen "Love" to be his directorial debut.

MARTINE McCutcheon is adorable as Natalie.

HUGH GRANT, in his element as UK Prime Minister

A first-rate cast helps make 'Love Actually' a funny meditation on affection

ROWAN Atkinson is hilarious as always.

TO ME YOU ARE PERFECT
STARRY-EYED Mark (Andrew Lincoln) will break your heart.

Sentimental and funny

That being the case, "Love" has many similarities with "Four Weddings," aside from the fact that the movie has both Grant and Atkinson in its cast. But "Love" is also more ambitious, more sentimental and ultimately funnier, if less profound.

"Love" is set in London a few weeks before Christmas and features the same kind of goofy yet vulnerable people that populated "Four Weddings" and "Notting Hill." Though it isn't clear how at the start, we are made to understand that the eight subplots that move around in "Love" are somehow interconnected.

"When the planes hit the Twin towers, as far as I know, none of the phone calls from the people on board were messages of hate or revenge," Grant's Prime Minister says at the top of the movie. "They were all messages of love. And if you look at it, I've got a sneaking suspicion that love actually is all around."

Thus all the little threads that weave into "Love" are actually meditations on the different kinds of affection and the problems they entail. Among those stories, for example, is the workplace tension growing between the Prime Minister of England (with Grant playing what must be the youngest, most unlikely PM ever) and Natalie, a caterer in 10 Downing St. (a glowing Martine McCutcheon from Brit TV's "EastEnders").

There is also widower Daniel (Liam Neeson) who has to deal with grief and the mysterious aloofness of stepson Sam (Thomas Sangster). There's writer Jamie (Colin Firth) who has left his cheating wife to write in Provence, only to start falling for his Portuguese cleaning lady Aurelia (Lucia Moniz), who doesn't speak any English.

Oh, and there's devoted homemaker Karen (Emma Thompson), whose husband Harry (Alan Rickman) is being tempted by his secretary. There's newlywed Juliet (a positively perfect Keira Knightley) who is puzzled by the grumpiness of her husband's best friend Mark (Andrew Lincoln).

Add to this multitude two stand-ins in a porn movie who find something special between them, a silly bloke who's convinced all he has to do to get laid is to relocate to Wisconsin, and a bizarre aging rock star named Bill Mack (veteran Bill Nighy from "Underworld") who's making a reach for number one with the aforementioned single "Christmas is All Around."

Whew. And there's even more, but we don't have enough space for that.

A bit gimmicky

The movie gets busier as Christmas inches closer in London. "The only thing about romance is that people only get together right at the very end," explains Sam to his father.

Curtis actually does manage to tie all these disparate plot lines together very well—perhaps a bit too well. The ending is a bit too gimmicky and perhaps overly manicured.

"Love's" true strength lies more in the individual stories. In each story, Curtis explores everything from domestic routine to something not lost in translation to lost love and, of course, love in unlikely places.

The stories themselves are a bit difficult to keep track of, and some just seem to drop off from the screen for bewilderingly long stretches. It feels so involved and confusing, "Love" almost feels unwieldy at times. But audiences will be curious to find out what happens to everyone and so will keep tuned.

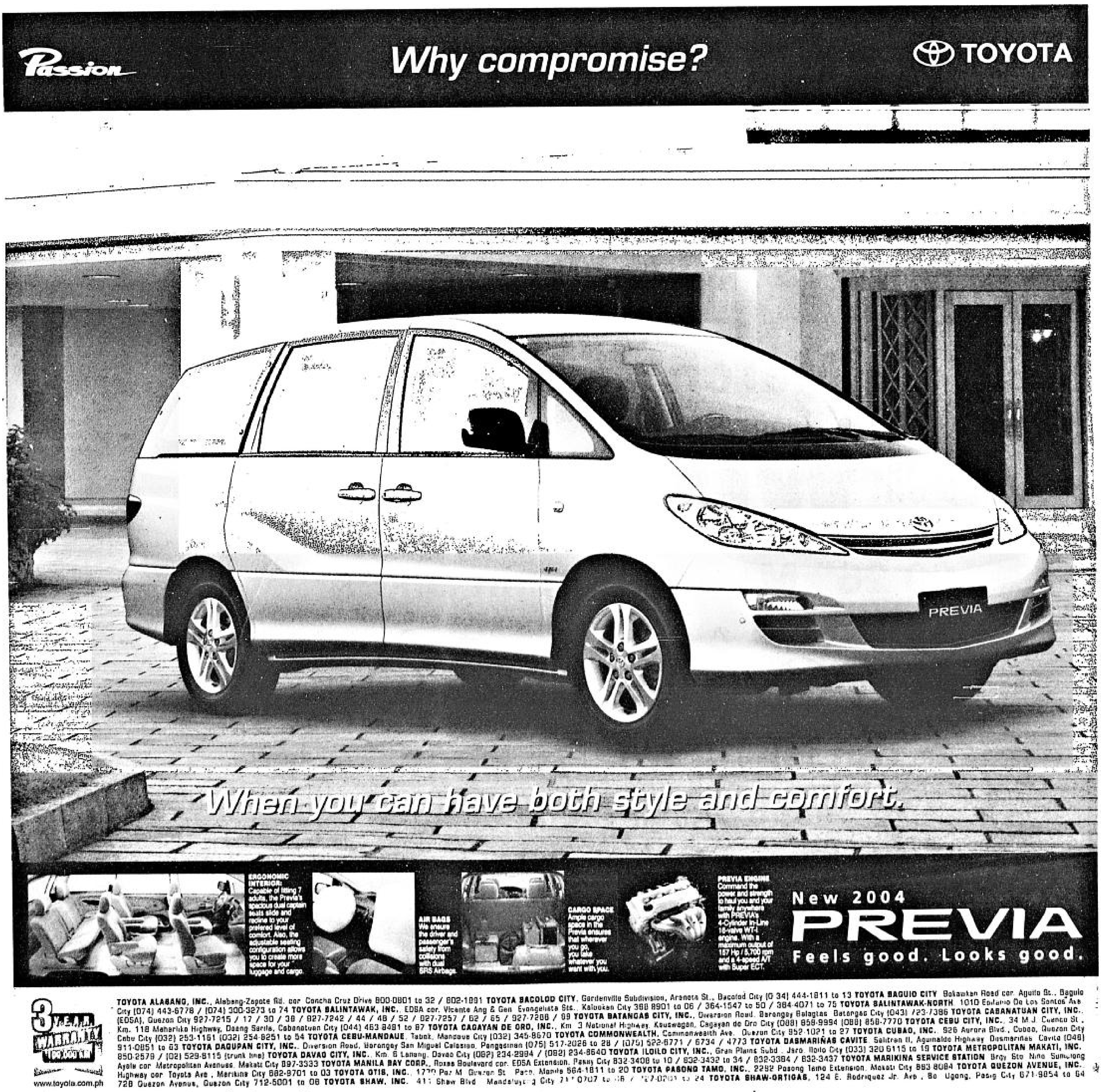
Aside from that, Curtis produces a genuinely funny comedy of manners that goes beyond the Brit sense of humor. A great (and enormous) cast helps. Grant is in fine form here, using his youthful mischief to perfect effect. He also seems to be having a lot of fun.

There are ample dramatic opportunities for pros like Neeson, Thompson and Firth. Truth be told, the stories in "Love" are so dizzying, much of the ensemble seems left with very little to do, notably Laura Linney and Knightley. The scene-stealer is definitely Nighy, whose award-winning turn as the seemingly out-of-control rock star is alternately bonkers and touching.

A most effective element in "Love" is the music—from Joni Mitchell to the Bay City Rollers—which stitches the scenes together and moves the movie forward. The music fits the exuberance of the movie itself, exemplified by Grant's bopping to the Pointer Sisters' 1980s ditty "Jump (For My Love)."

Though the movie itself is rather complicated in terms of structure, "Love" is essentially a simple idea given form; that love, in whatever form it may take, can be found if one looks closely enough.

Thanks to a talented cast and a pitch-perfect script, "Love Actually" offers a rewarding and firmly touchy-feely experience. It may feel like there's a Christmas shopping crowd packed into the screen, but in this case, the more, the merrier.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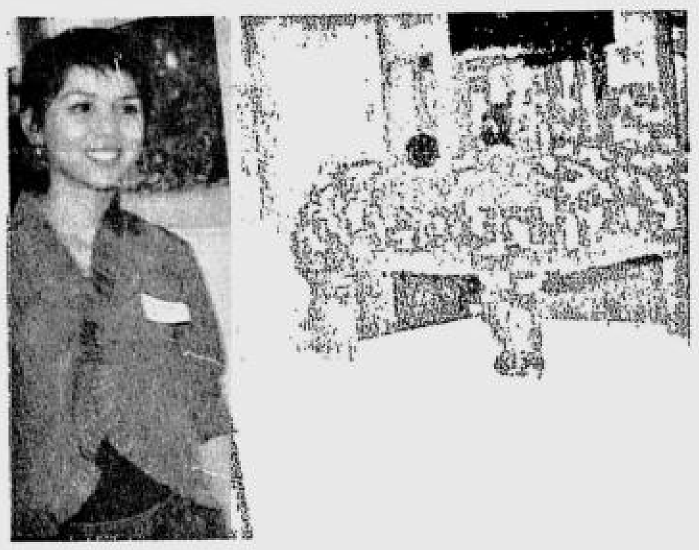
Sweet works of art



VICTORIAN footstool by Patty Eustaquio

By Jay Mata
2bU! Correspondent

CANDY Corner is the place to go if you want a sugar overload.

But recently, it offered a delicious feast for the eyes, not just the mouth. The store launched the first Candy Corner Can-Do event, an art display with a touch of fun.

Every piece of artwork during the event, hosted by the "Gameplan" team, was made completely from candies. Even the floor of the exhibit area was made of—yup, you guessed it—candies!

After the opening speeches and lunch (candy was given away throughout the event), the artists and their works were introduced.

The six candy objects displayed were simple stuff, nothing fancy. But they showed creativity and flair.

Several games, all involving candy, were played. They included bubblegum bubble-blowing, jawbreaker sucking, and "Fear Factor"-style dare where contestants tried to keep a straight face while eating the sourest or sweetest confections in Candy Corner's "arsenal."

The "Gameplan" hosts joined in and made the most of the games, keeping things lively and fun with their brisk charm and professionalism.

The candy artworks are going to be auctioned off. Candy Corner promises a bigger show next year.

MARIA Taniguchi with her UFO lamp creation

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Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Waltermart Plaridel, Sta. Rosa, Gen. Trias | Nepo Mall Pampanga

Scents for summer soirées

Lora Gabol

MY OLFACTORY glands and my long-term memory have an unusual relationship. You know how people remember events through a song or photo? I'm like that—except that my nose seems more receptive to memory cues.

Every time I get a whiff of Estée Lauder's Beautiful, I remember how, as a child, I would watch my mom complete her morning ritual with a couple of spritzes of her favorite scent that signaled she was soon off to work.

When my sensitive nose picks up the scent of Gap Blue, I remember my first heartbreak of telenovelic proportions. My first boyfriend gave me a 50-ml bottle of the scent for an anniversary present.

My nose and my brain have an unusual relationship, all right, but it only seems to involve designer perfume and bad memories.

This is how I explain my addiction to baby cologne. I smelled of Nenuco till I was in college. Now, I can be the (over-aged) poster girl for Baby Bench Lemon Drops. But, while I'm not an eau de parfum girl, I do know a great scent when I smell one.

Eternity Love by Calvin Klein. I made an exception and sprayed this on my romance-ready self last Valentine's Day—it is called Love after all. Needless to say, I actually had a night to remember. My boyfriend complimented my sophisticated, un-baby cologne smell that isn't to be easily forgotten, either. The limited-edition offering from CK is sweet without being cloying, and never overpowering. It's so subtle, he had to get really close.

Beyond Paradise by Estée Lauder. This can only be described as a bouquet of flowers—orange flower, pink honeysuckle and plum blossoms to be exact. Very light and fresh, the scent actually reminds me of *sampaguita* blossoms. The rainbow-colored bottle is a mini sight to behold, too.

Life by Esprit. If Elle Woods (in the "Legally Blonde" movies) ever had to endorse a scent, this would be it. Perky, vibrant, confident, all-girl, Life by Esprit is a cheerleader "perfumified." Floral and citrus notes mingle for the perfect scent for summer soirées. It's the best accessory to a neon bikini!

Still by Jennifer Lopez. The actress' first venture in the world of fragrance was a hit with me. I loved Glow's shower-and-soap thing. Still is a grown-up version of Glow, a pristine scent seductively clad in black lace-innocent yet sexy, young, but with a budding sensuality. On the warm, musky side, it completes a sexy night-out get-up. Think low-cut top, snug jeans, strappy stilettos—Still may make you feel you are J.Lo for the night.

L'Eau D'Issey by Issey Miyake. It can cool scorching days. Icy and refreshing, it turns up the heat while cooling you off—a delicious combination. A light floral with subtly woody undertones, L'Eau D'Issey is like a quick dip in the pool and is your best bet to recharge on days when the temperature goes up.

Classique by Jean Paul Gaultier. For bombshells-in-the-making or closet divas who live for glamour, Classique is your scent. From the sexy hourglass bottle that pays tribute to the female form to the rich floral tones of roses and orchids, Classique spells w-o-m-a-n. The rare fragrance has elegance and grace, and feels like the allure of the spotlight.

Blue by Ralph Lauren. More cologne than perfume, Blue is for the preppy country-club types in Polo shirts, plaid pants and clean-cut sneakers. Bringing an instant aura of class, it's the fragrance for ladies who lunch, sporty but feminine gals, and those who spend summers on a yacht, coco colada in hand.

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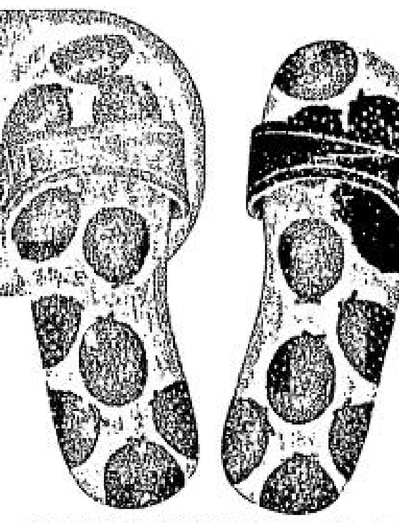
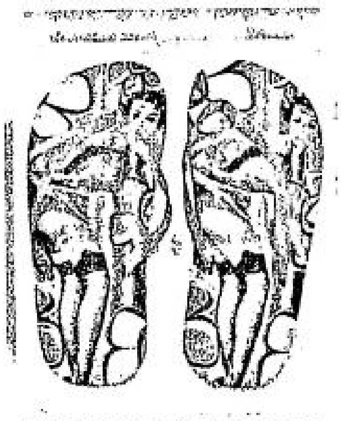
Feet up!



SWEET STRAWBERRIES. Hand-painted Regina Happy Feet sandals. P1,300. Available at Nail Spa branches

It's foot fetish week for the Fashion Freaks. This issue, we have pretty flip flops for you to flip over, foot care tips from our favorite Nail Spa and prizes galore that would leave you and your feet feeling pampered and pretty. Because it's sandal season and having beautiful feet is a must



BOOTY CALL. P199. Available at 1:15 in Glorietta

FRUIT STRIPES. P180. Available at 152 Lily in Hip at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell

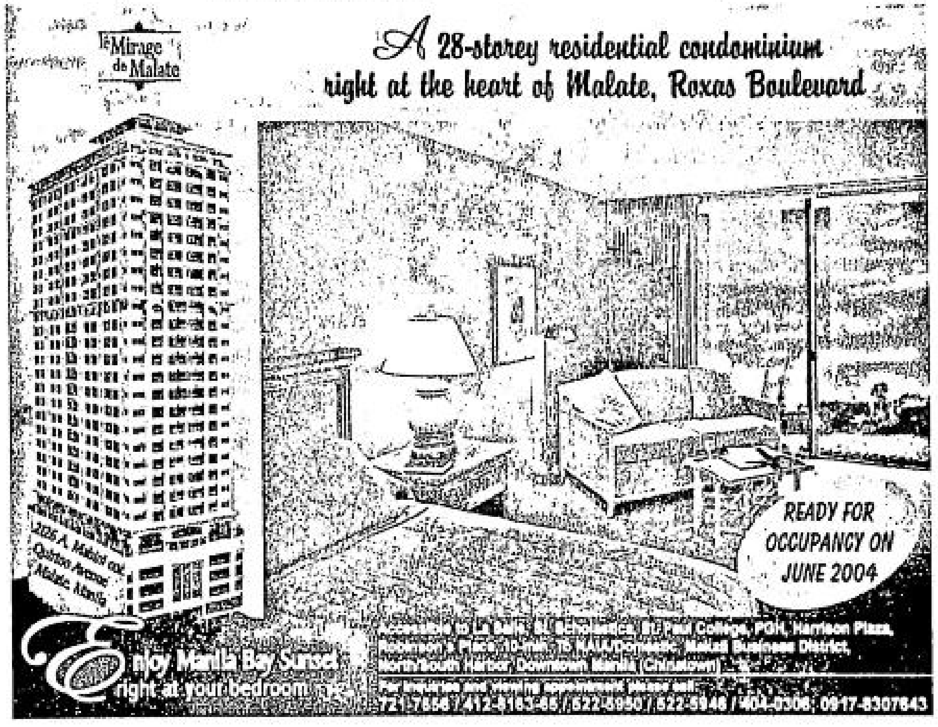
2BU FASHION FREAKS

Flipping over flip flops (and other sexy summer sandals)

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

THE LIFE of a Fashion Freak can be lonely sometimes. With one Freak in Cotabato and another busy with her thesis, I made our usual mall rounds without them. The trip should have been sad, but the sight of colorful flip flops lifted my spirits.

FLIPPING/D2



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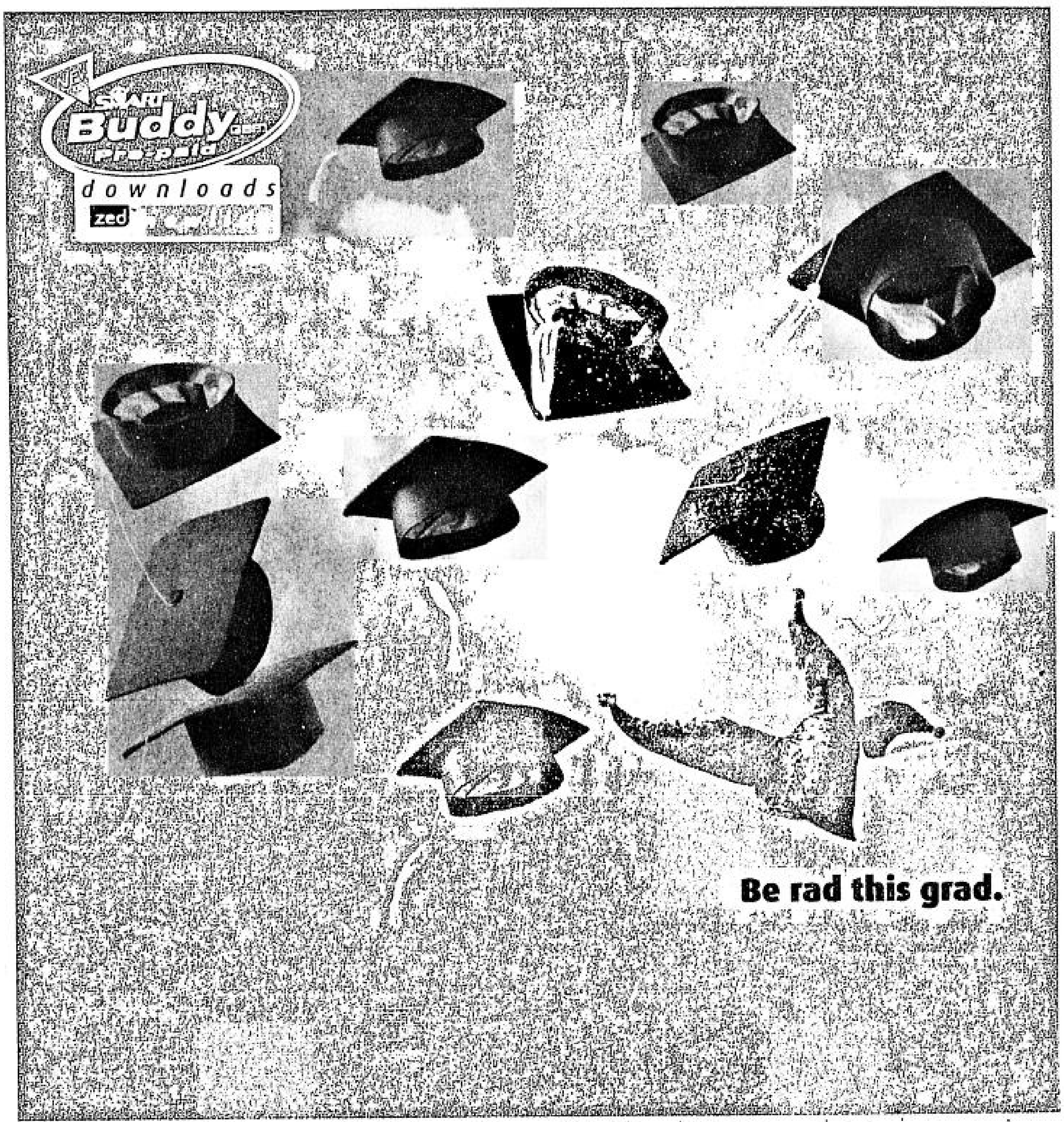

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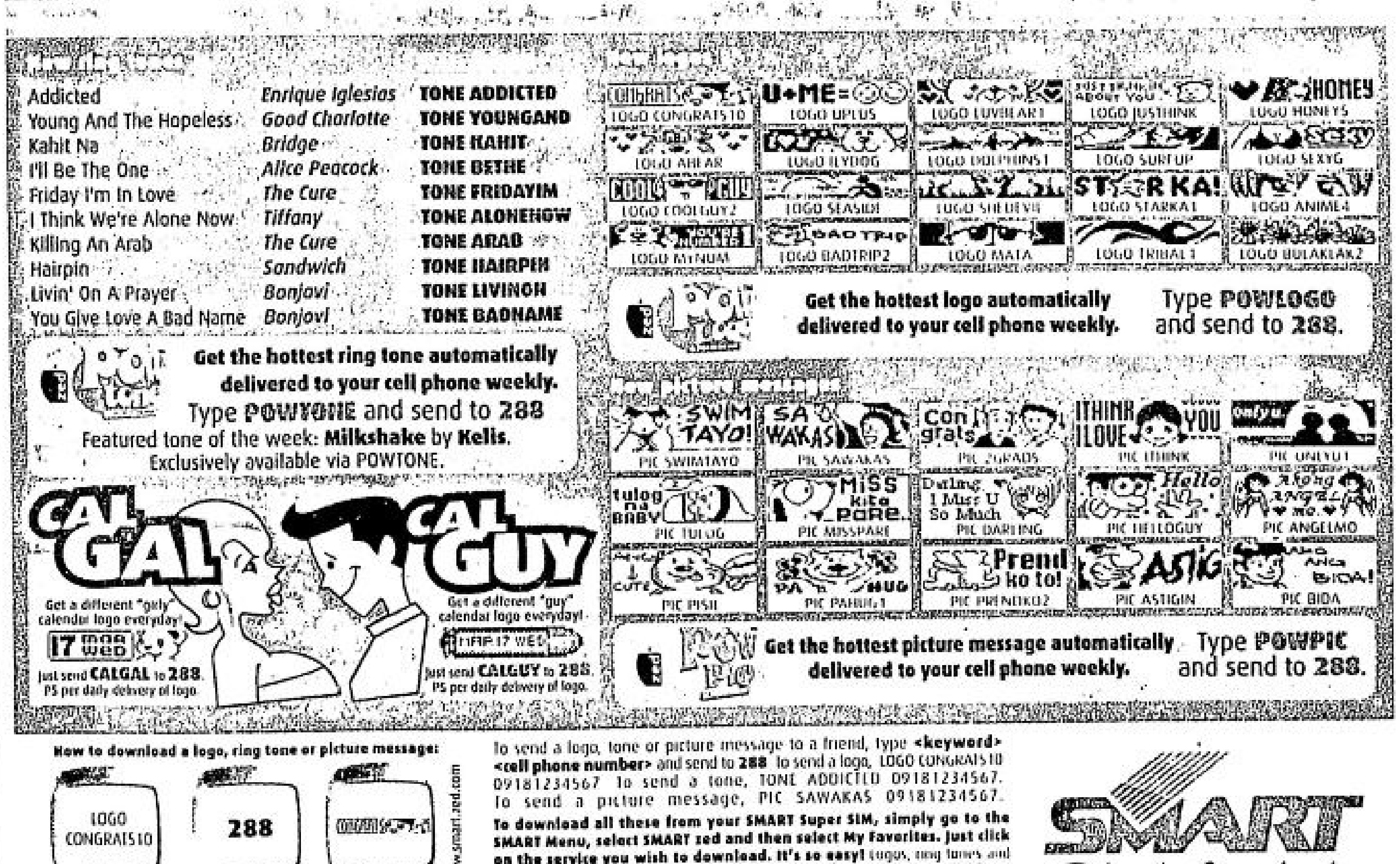

Addicted	*Enrique Iglesias*	**TONE ADDICTED**
Young And The Hopeless	*Good Charlotte*	**TONE YOUNGAND**
Kahit Na	*Bridge*	**TONE KAHIT**
I'll Be The One	*Alice Peacock*	**TONE BETHE**
Friday I'm In Love	*The Cure*	**TONE FRIDAYIM**
I Think We're Alone Now	*Tiffany*	**TONE ALONENOW**
Killing An Arab	*The Cure*	**TONE ARAB**
Hairpin	*Sandwich*	**TONE HAIRPIN**
Livin' On A Prayer	*Bonjovi*	**TONE LIVINON**
You Give Love A Bad Name	*Bonjovi*	**TONE BADNAME**

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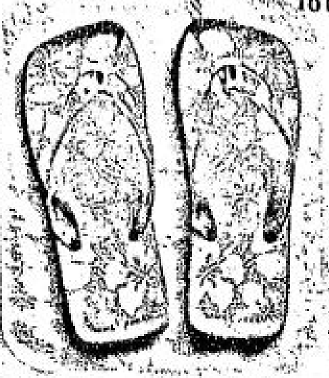
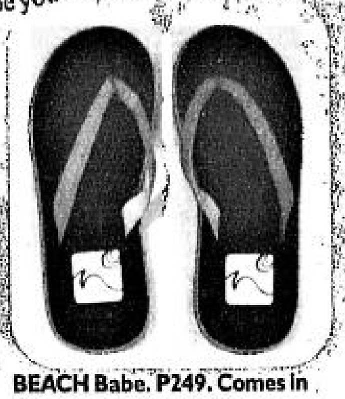
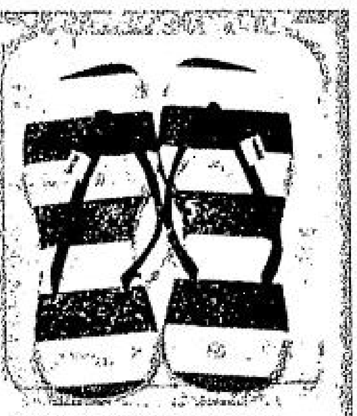
BEDAZZLED. Banana Peel Flip Flops, P59.75

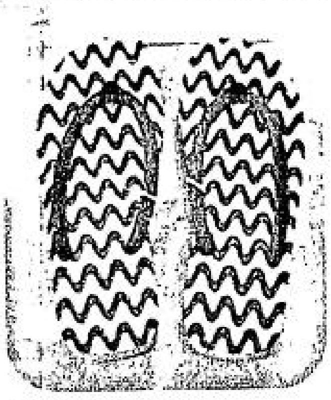
THE RESURRECTION OF THE ESPADRILLES. P550. (152 Lily in Hip)

BUTTERFLY FARM. Havaianas, P835


TAHITI. Banana Peel Flip Flops, P59.75

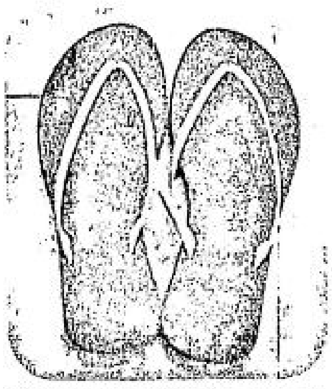

BEACH Babe. P249. Comes in five other color combinations. (Nothing But Water)


BARS. P189.75. (Footloose)

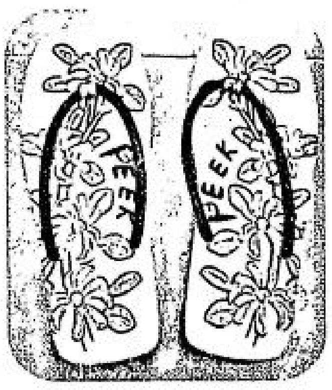

SQUIGGLES. P189.75. (Footloose)

CHIC CHICK. P99.75. (Footloose)

SOLID STRIPES. P189.75. (Footloose)


SKY BLUE. P69.75. (Footloose)

MOCHA. P189.75. (Footloose)


BLOSSOM. P159.75. (Footloose)

DENIM DREAMS. P199.75. (Footloose)

ORANGE JUICE. P899. Also comes in black. (Celine)

CHOCOLATE BROWN. Havaianas, P635

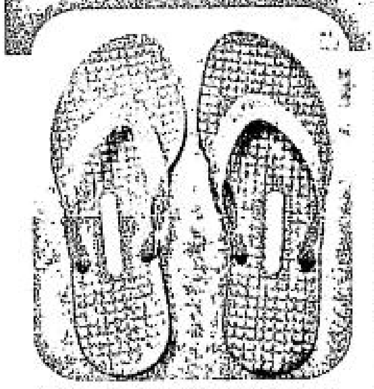
PURPLE POPSICLE. Havaianas, P635

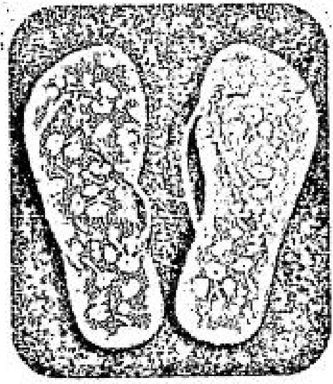
TWO-TONED. Havaianas, P755

OCEAN LOVER. Havaianas, P615.

Flipping over flip flops

(and other sexy summer sandals)


NEON PRINCESS. P599. Also comes in fuchsia, black, orange, blue and white. (Celine)


FLOWER POWER. P150. (152 Lily in Hip)

SPECIAL THANKS TO RAQUEL HIZON, AMOR MACLANG, JUDY MARET, GINGGAY JOVEN, TJ CUENCA, CECILIA SANTOS, GRACE OF CELINE AND CMG, ERIN CAMPOS, MICHELLE OF NOTHING BUT WATER, GABBY TEJADA, MICHELLE, HAPPY DAVID, ANNE ARCENAS, ARVIN DE GUZMAN AND THE STAFF OF NAIL SPA GAMBOA ST., 152 LILY, ROBINSON'S GALLERIA DEPARTMENT STORE, NOTHING BUT WATER, DEFECT, 1:15, CELINE, CMG AND JANYLIN IN GLORIETTA.

From page D1

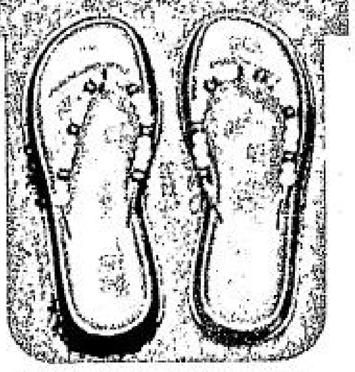
Yes, people, summer has reared its pretty head and sandal season is here once again.

Stop hiding your tootsies in thick socks. It's time to let the sun shine on them.

Summer survival tip number one: stock up on flip flops.

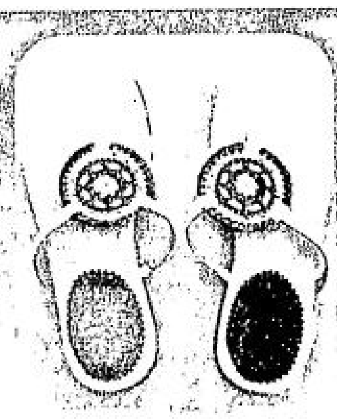
You can start with these.

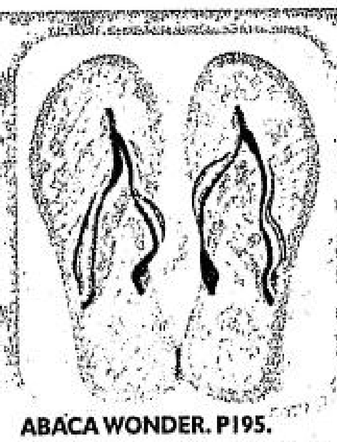
Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your stores or see your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com


BEADED BEAUTY. P550. (152 Lily)

COOL CORAL. Havaianas, P835

RED HOT. P799. Also comes in black. (Celine)


STEP UP. From Nail Spa. Price available upon request.


ABACA WONDER. P195. Comes in four colors. (Nothing But Water)

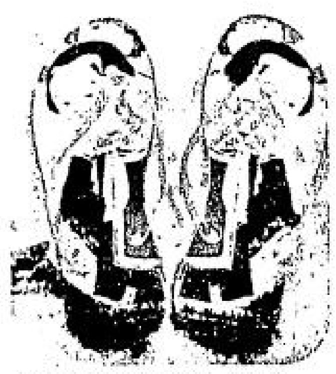
HIP HIPPIE. P199. (1:15)

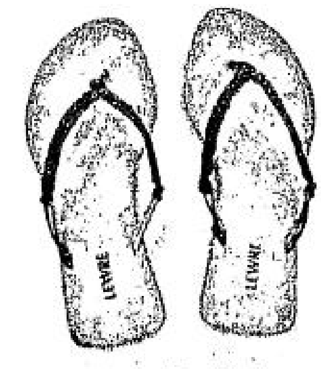
NUTS OVER KNOTS. P350. (152 Lily)

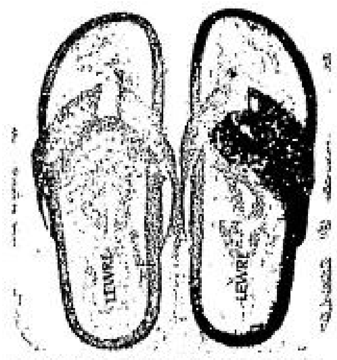
IT WON'T let you climb walls but still... Spider-man flip flops, P199. (1:15)

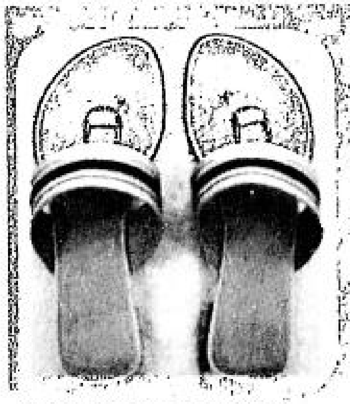
MOVIE MANIA. P199. (1:15)

SALUTE LADY LIBERTY. P350. Comes in various colors. (Defect)


LITTLE CHINA GIRL. P350. Comes in various colors. (Defect)


LEWRE thongs. P1,499. Also comes in green. (CMG)

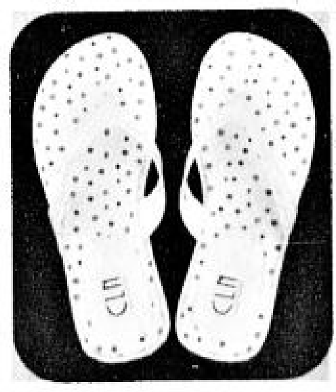

DON'T STEP on my blue suede, err, sandals. P1,499. Also comes in pink, brown and green. (CMG)


SUPER STRIPES. P4,399. Comes in other color combinations. (CMG)

SHOE LOVE. P495. Also comes in yellow, blue, pink and black. (Janylin)

FOR MIDNIGHT strolls on the beach. P499. Also comes in gold, pink and silver. (Celine)

LEMONADE. P799. Also comes in white. (Celine)


POLKA DOTS. P799. Also comes in pink and black. (Celine)

- 1:15, 2/L GLORIETTA 3
- 152 LILY IS INSIDE HIP, 2/F POWER PLANT, ROCKWELL
- BANANA PEEL FLIP FLOPS, SM DEPARTMENT STORES
- CELINE BRANCHES. GLORIETTA, ESCOLTA, SM MALLS, SHOPPESVILLE, ROBINSON'S PLACE, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA, ALABANG TOWN CENTER
- CMG BRANCHES. GLORIETTA AND POWER PLANT MALL, ROCKWELL
- DEFECT BRANCHES. GLORIETTA 3 AND SHANGRI-LA PLAZA
- FOOTLOOSE, 3/F ROBINSON'S GALLERIAS DEPARTMENT STORE
- HAVAIANAS, AVAILABLE AT RUSTAN'S U, NOTHING BUT WATER, NAIL SPA BRANCHES, SOUK, TABU, STOKED, REGATTA AND CHOCOLATE CLOTHING CO.
- JANYLIN BRANCHES. GLORIETTA, LANDMARK, ROBINSON'S GALLERIA, POWER PLANT MALL, ALABANG TOWN CENTER, FILINVEST, ROBINSON'S PLACE, ROBINSON'S METRO EAST AND GREENHILLS
- NAIL SPA BRANCHES. 5/F SHANGRI-LA PLAZA, UNIT 106 1ST MIDLAND BUILDING 109 GAMBOA STREET LEGASPI VILLAGE, MAKATI AND ESSENSES, RUSTAN'S MAKATI
- NOTHING BUT WATER BRANCHES. GLORIETTA, ROBINSON'S GALLERIA AND ALABANG TOWN CENTER

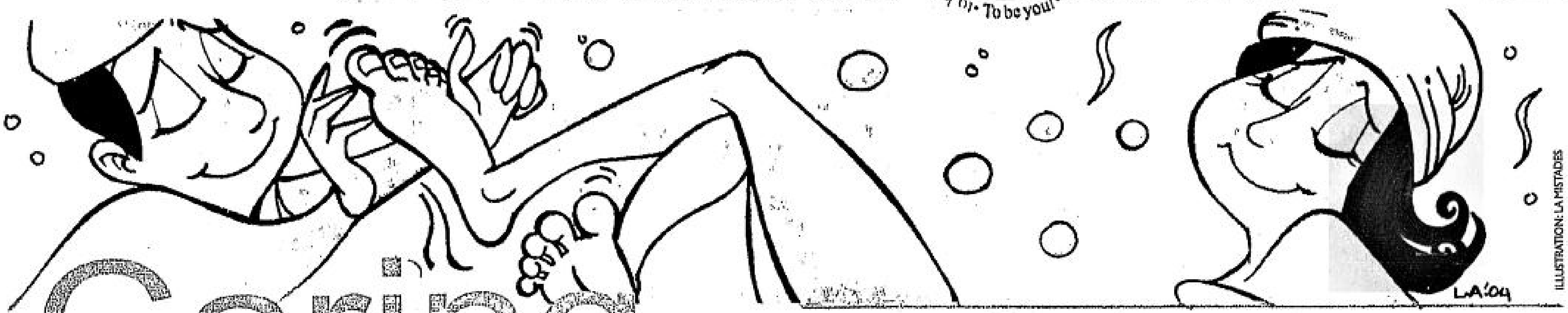


ILLUSTRATION: LA MISTADES

Caring for your feet

Let 2bU! and Nail Spa pamper your feet

WE will be giving away free treatments to five lucky readers. Two readers will receive Pamper Hands and Feet treatments and three readers will receive the Bliss Hands and Feet treatments. Pamper Hands (P280) includes cleaning, a 15-minute massage and polish. Pamper Feet (P595) includes soak in bubble bliss, scrub, cleaning, 20-minute massage and polish.

Bliss Hands (P550) includes scrub, cleaning, 30 minutes of reflexology, polish and Bliss Feet (P990) includes soak in bubble bliss, scrub, mask, cleaning, 45 minutes of reflexology and polish.

Starting April 1, The Nail Spa's loyal customers will be part of an exclusive VIP List and will be entitled to discounts and other promos. Fifteen readers will become part of Nail Spa's exclusive VIP List and will be entitled to 10-percent discount.

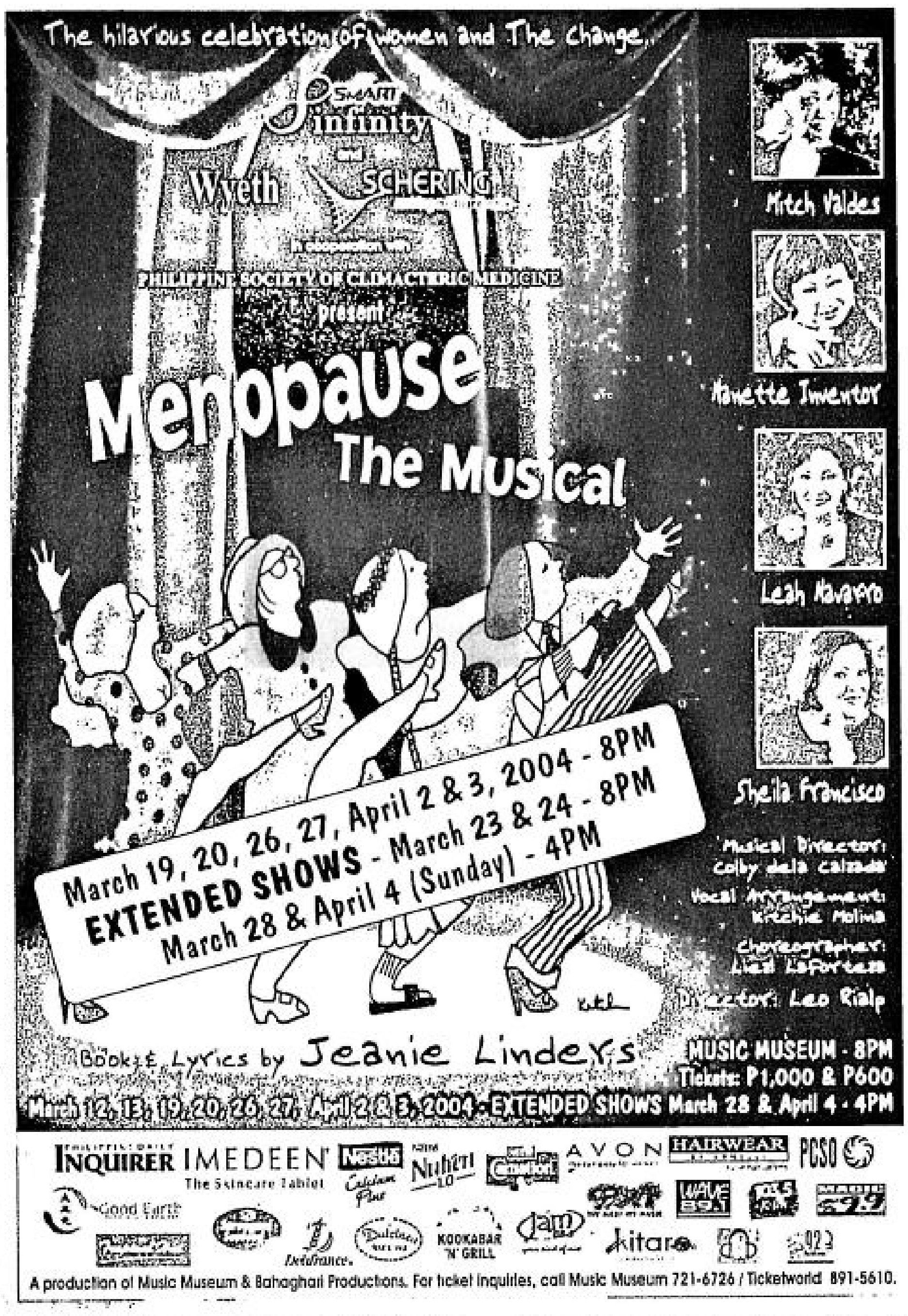
To join, tell us why you think your feet deserve to be pampered. E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph or snail mail them to 2bU! Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati. Don't forget to include your name, age, school/office and contact numbers. Entries must be submitted by March 22.

Winners may redeem their gift certificates from Nail Spa's branches in Shangri-La Plaza and Gamboa Street in Legaspi Village.

HERE are some important foot care tips from Nail Spa.

- Make sure you cut your toenails straight across. Round them out with an emery board to smooth out sharp edges. This is the most important thing to remember in foot care and the No. 1 rule in preventing ingrown nails.
- Spoil your feet with a nightly moisture boost. The feet have the driest skin on the body. Smoothing on lotion every night maintains the condition of your feet in between pedicure appointments. Well-moisturized feet look great in sandals.
- Hard, calloused heels look terrible in strappy sandals and slides. They also snag your socks and stockings. If you don't have time for a professional foot scrub and pedicure, use a pumice stone to get rid of the tough skin.
- Have a foot spa treatment at least once every two weeks. The best part of this ritual? The foot massage, which invigorates the body and relaxes the mind. You don't even have to be a pro to do this. The feet have about 72,000 nerve endings, so applying massage oil and kneading the soles of both feet with your thumbs will feel really good.
- Just because you've grown up doesn't mean that your feet have stopped growing. Measure your feet every couple of years to make sure you are wearing the correct shoe size. Most foot problems (i.e. bunions, corns, calluses) are caused by rubbing and pressure from ill-fitting shoes.
- Vary the height of your heels to prevent backache and sore muscles.
- Every time you stand, your feet carry your body weight. When your feet are swollen at the end of the day, put your feet up against the wall at a 45-degree angle. A foot massage will help your blood circulation get going as well.
- To prevent athlete's foot (a fungal infection), make sure to dry the areas between your toes, change socks every day and alternate shoes so that they have a chance to dry out. Also, avoid putting shoes on right after you've showered, since athlete's foot loves damp skin in a warm shoe.
- Use an anti-perspirant foot powder if you have sweaty, smelly feet. Avoid shoes made of synthetic materials and thick rubber soles which don't let your feet breathe.

Visit Nail Spa at 5/F Shangri-La Plaza (6874991/7011), Unit 106 1st Midland Building 109 Gamboa Street, Legaspi Village, Makati (8173128/8300702) and Essenses, Rustan's Makati (8133739 local 205 or 8191610).



The hilarious celebration of women and The change..
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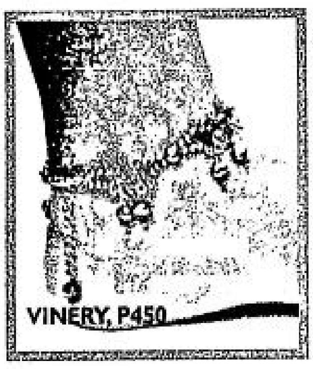
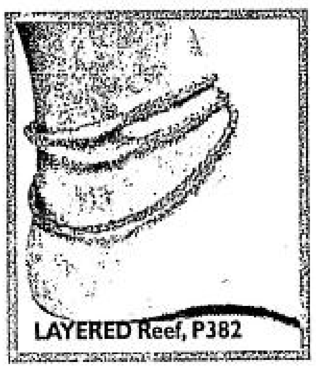
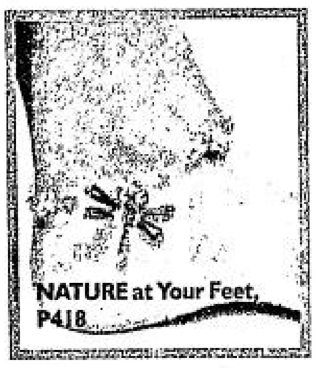
Menopause The Musical
Mitch Valdes
Nanette Inventor
Leah Navarro
Sheila Francisco
March 19, 20, 26, 27, April 2 & 3, 2004 - 8PM
EXTENDED SHOWS - March 23 & 24 - 8PM
March 28 & April 4 (Sunday) - 4PM
Musical Director: Colby dela Calzada
Vocal Arrangement: Kitchie Molina
Choreographer: Liezl Laforteza
Director: Leo Rialp
Book & Lyrics by Jeanie Linders
MUSIC MUSEUM - 8PM
Tickets: P1,000 & P600
March 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, April 2 & 3, 2004 - EXTENDED SHOWS March 28 & April 4 - 4PM
Philippine Daily Inquirer · Imedeen The Skincare Tablet · Nestlé Calcium Plus · Nuheri 10 · Avon · Hairwear · PCSO · Good Earth · Delifrance · Kookabar 'N' Grill · Jam · Kitaro · Wave 89.1
A production of Music Museum & Bahaghari Productions. For ticket inquiries, call Music Museum 721-6726 / Ticketworld 891-5610.



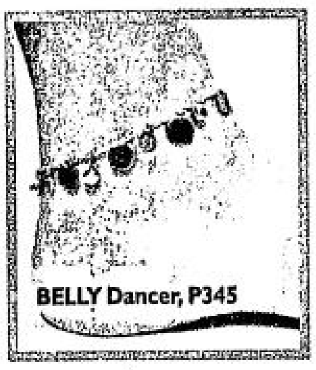
VINERY, P450



LAYERED Reef, P382

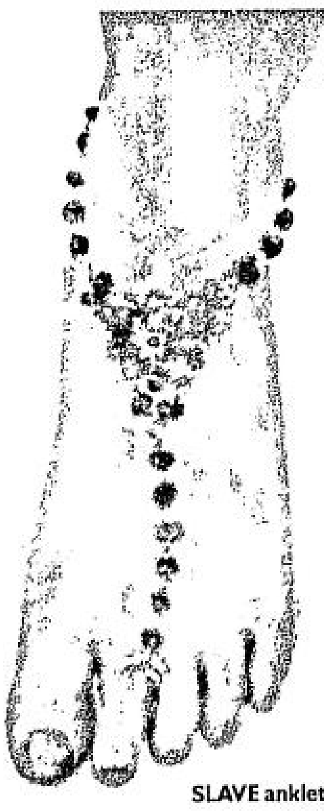


NATURE at Your Feet, P418



BELLY Dancer, P345

Win these anklets



SLAVE anklet, P435

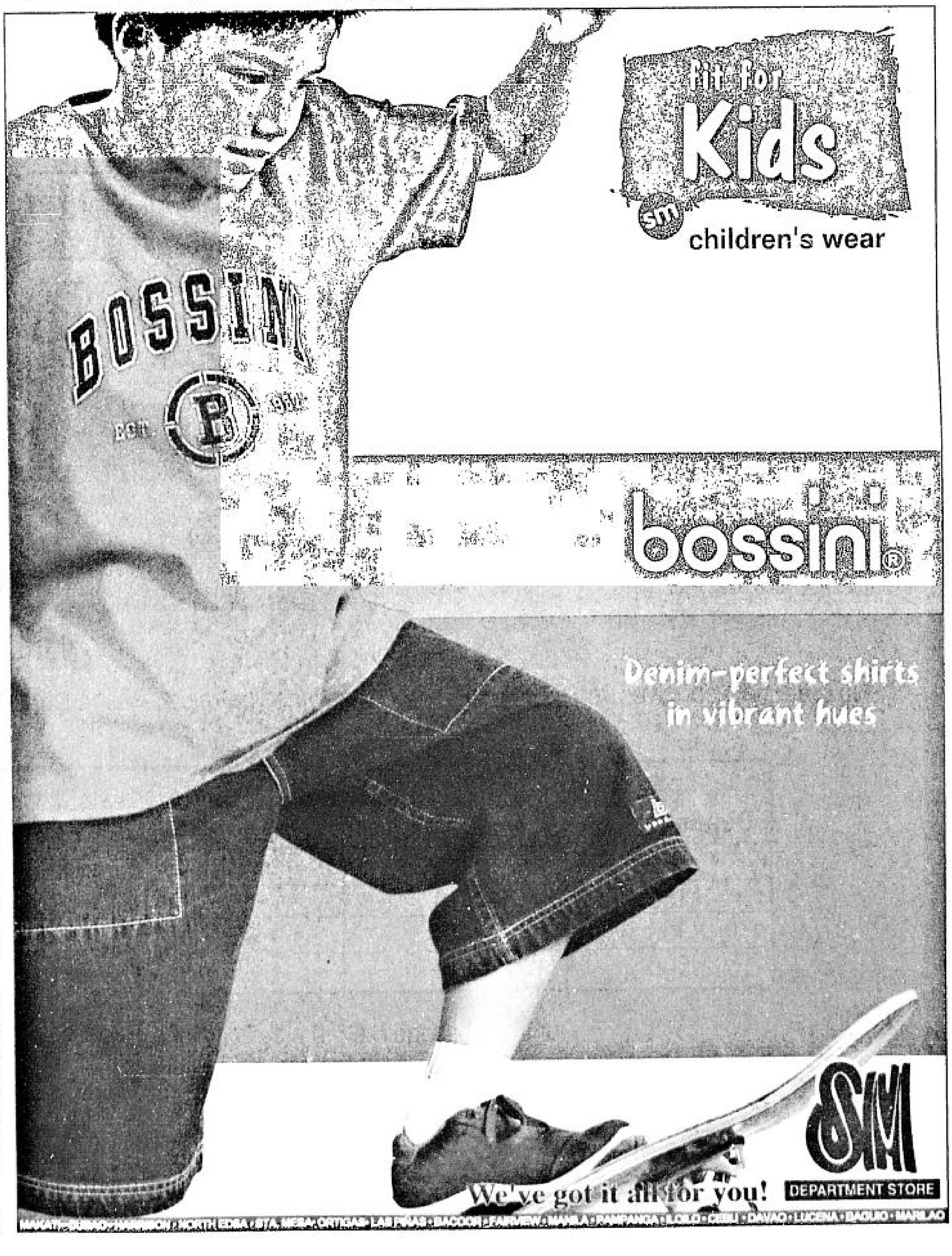
PRETTY feet deserve pretty accessories.

We're giving away five anklets from Ron Maclang's Baubles Bangles and Beads jewelry line. Ron originally worked on her beaded creations as gifts for her friends and family. Now, the 21-year-old is enjoying a successful business. She makes earrings, necklaces and bracelet sets and also accepts orders for anklets and rings.

To order, call 0917-5396122 or e-mail vmdesigns03@yahoo.com.

If you want to join our contest, send us a picture of your foot. Be as creative as you can. Send your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph or snail mail them to 2bU! Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati. Don't forget to include your name, age, school/office and contact numbers. Entries must be submitted by March 22.

PHOTOS PAM PASTOR
FOOT MODEL KAT REYES



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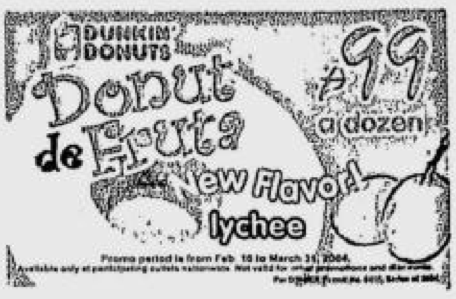

Promo period is from Feb. 16 to March 31, 2004. Available only at participating outlets nationwide. Not valid for other promotions and discounts.

THE BAND members browse through a scrapbook made by their Pinoy fans.

ANGELA IGNACIO

Bowing before the gods of rock

Incubus comes in, and oxygen levels at the Westin Philippine Plaza's Sulu room noticeably drop

By Angela V. Ignacio
2bU! Correspondent

THE GODS of rock are finally here. Pardon me while I burst.

Oxygen levels at the Westin Philippine Plaza's Sulu room noticeably drop as drummer Jose Pasillas II comes in, followed by DJ Chris Kilmore, vocalist Brandon Boyd, bassist Ben Kenney, and guitarist Mike Einziger.

The members of the much-adulated rock band Incubus are dressed comfortably in shirts and jeans, but their presence is just overwhelming. No rock-star attitude, no cocky air—just pure, arcane magnetism.

The press members try their best to stay cool and collected, but of course, that's easier said than done when all five guys are looking straight at you while you're asking your question.

Fresh from their Japan tour, the boys arrived in Manila to promote their newest brainchild, "A Crow Left Of The Murder...," which is selling faster than you can say "stellar" both here and abroad.

Faithful fans have been keeping constant vigil over their tour dates, hoping against hope that they wouldn't pull out at the last minute like fellow rock giants Oasis and Red Hot Chili Peppers had. Apparently, we had nothing to worry about.

"We were largely very excited [when we were invited to the Philippines], we had no idea what to expect," says Brandon. "Collectively, it's just really amazing for us to be going to different countries on a daily basis... I feel

BOWING/ E3

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I like "1," tanggal ang pagod!
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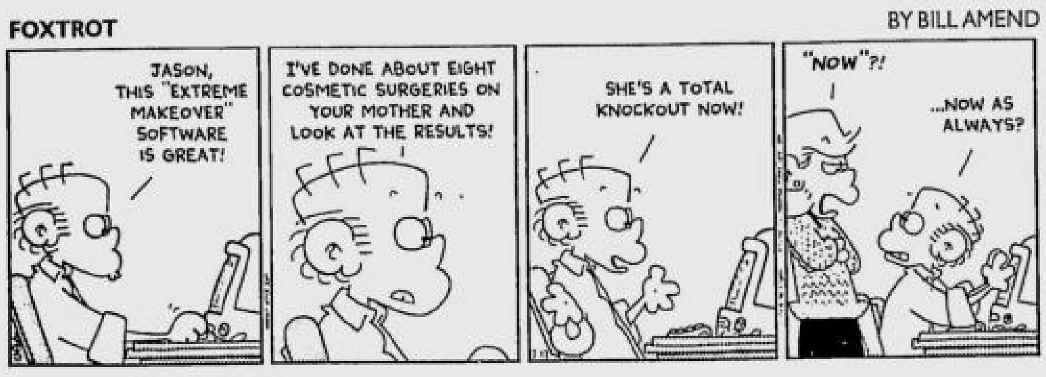
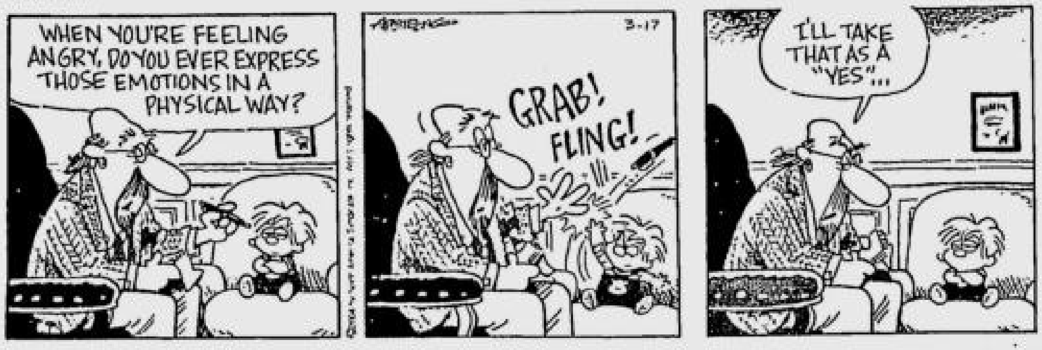
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


JASON, THIS "EXTREME MAKEOVER" SOFTWARE IS GREAT!
I'VE DONE ABOUT EIGHT COSMETIC SURGERIES ON YOUR MOTHER AND LOOK AT THE RESULTS!
SHE'S A TOTAL KNOCKOUT NOW!
"NOW"?!
...NOW AS ALWAYS?

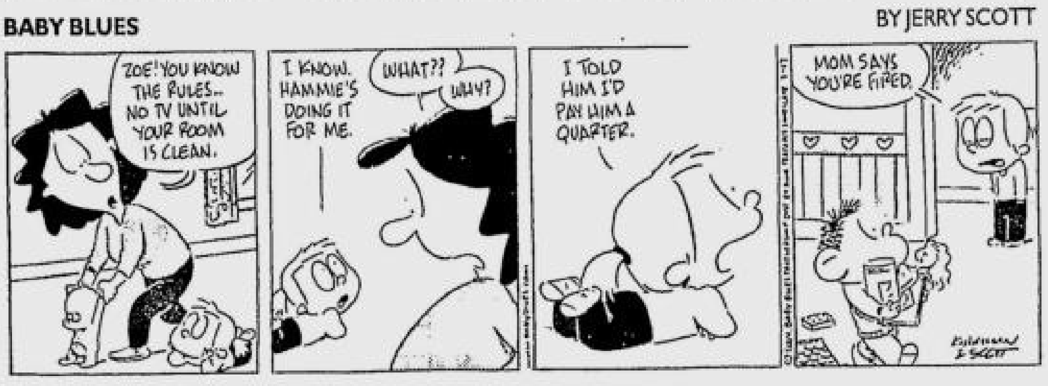
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHEN YOU'RE FEELING ANGRY, DO YOU EVER EXPRESS THOSE EMOTIONS IN A PHYSICAL WAY?
3-17
GRAB! FLING!
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A "YES"...

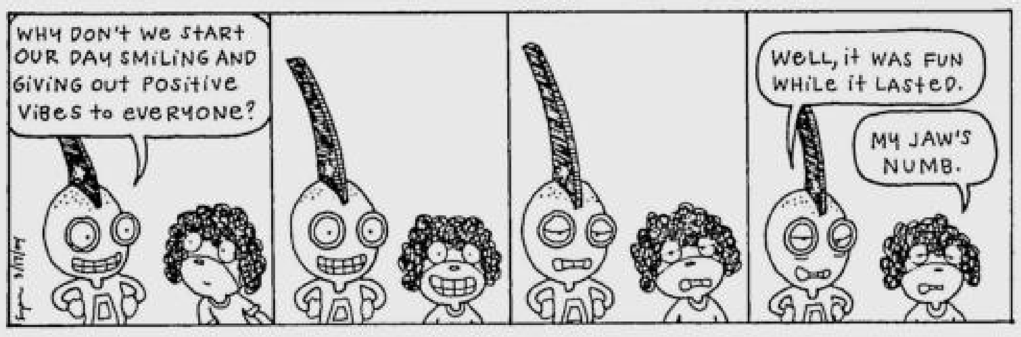
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE! YOU KNOW THE RULES.. NO TV UNTIL YOUR ROOM IS CLEAN.
I KNOW. HAMMIE'S DOING IT FOR ME.
WHAT??
WHY?
I TOLD HIM I'D PAY HIM A QUARTER.
MOM SAYS YOU'RE FIRED.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHY DON'T WE START OUR DAY SMILING AND GIVING OUT POSITIVE VIBES TO EVERYONE?
WELL, IT WAS FUN WHILE IT LASTED.
MY JAW'S NUMB.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're dramatic and adaptable; but above all, you know how to express your enthusiasm. Dance, movement and the arts attract you. You adore everything that is new and fresh in the world. You need strong social contacts to stay vibrant. The year ahead could be one of the best years of your life. Expect a miracle!
Birthdate of: Gary Sinise, actor; Kurt Russell, actor; Rob Lowe, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Your drive to earn money is strong now. You might get approval from the government or a large institution to go forward with your plans. (Expect to spend more, as well.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're unusually strong and selfless today. You won't take "no" for an answer. Your confidence is solid because you believe in yourself now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You make a fabulous impression when talking to bosses, VIPs and parents today. You find it easy to put your energy behind what you want to say. (That's why you're so convincing!)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You feel aggressive and positive about plans for travel, settling legal matters and doing business related to publishing and the media. You have a vision, and you intend to make it a reality.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel very passionate right now! You feel intensely about love, money and shared possessions. You have strong views about your partner's income. You know what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You can learn so much about yourself through your discussions with others now. Remember to listen. (You can't hear much if you're doing the talking.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have an enormous amount of vigorous energy to help you work hard now. You want things to run as smoothly and efficiently as they can. With your attention to detail, they will!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You want to have fun! You want to enjoy good times with others, and you probably wish you were in love. (That's because you want to be the star in your own movie right now.)

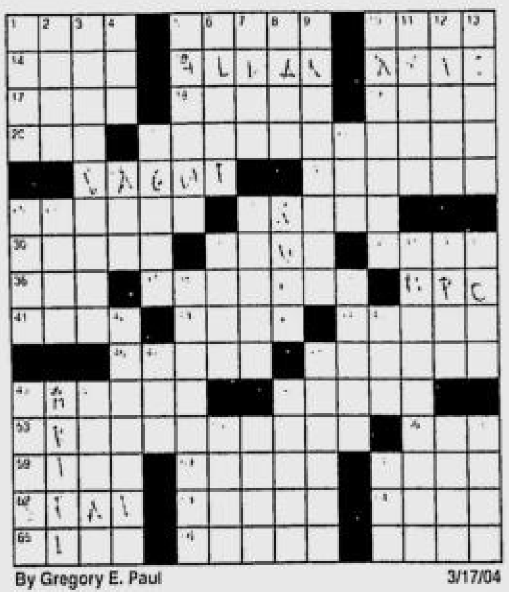
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): All of your interactions with family members are intense and vigorous now. Conversations are not casual. You want to make changes for the better in your domestic world.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're so enthused about life—you can sell, persuade, teach, write and influence anyone in practically anything, if you want to. Who could resist you now?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're determined to use your money and your possessions to make changes for the better at home or within your family. Think about how you can promote peace with relatives.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You've got energy to burn! Because of this, try to get more exercise. You'll derive personal satisfaction from working with others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

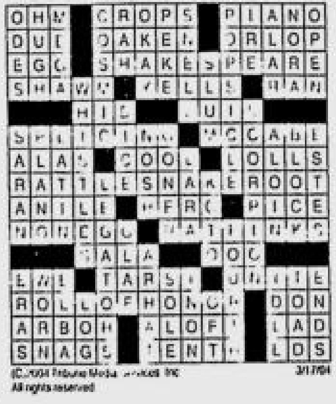


By Gregory E. Paul
Scottdale, PA
3/17/04

ACROSS
1 Totally absorbed
5 En __ (in one group)
10 Manly
14 Bassoon's cousin
15 Edgar __ Poe
16 WWII alliance
17 Utah ski resort
18 Fowl perch
19 "__ Be Cruel"
20 Kevin Cronin's Speedwagon
21 St. Patrick's Day parade site
23 Hard to see
25 Oder-__ Line
26 Liver, heart, etc.
28 Lyricist Carol Bayer __
30 "A Visit from St. Nicholas" poet
31 Jewish month
32 Pronto letters
36 Kind of tanker
37 Small brook
40 TV movie channel
41 Ransom of early cars
43 Potential plant
44 Online letters
46 Actor Jeremy
48 Tooth covering
49 Tennis string
52 Provide food
53 St. Patrick's Day phrase
56 Fall mo.
59 Verdi work
60 Bailey or Buck
61 Reverberate
62 Tight closure
63 Select group
64 Revue segment
65 Building wings
66 Merchant's figures
67 Small vipers

DOWN
1 Crowd's noise
2 Qualified
3 St. Patrick's Day prop
4 "__ and Sympathy"
5 Cheech and John
6 Overhead
7 Coin channel
8 Pageant band
9 Snarl
10 Portuguese wine
11 Nerve parts
12 "Peanuts" kid
13 Lauder of cosmetics
21 Less coarse
22 Churchill's sign
24 Bern's river
26 "Typee" sequel
27 Make muddy
28 Turns on a pivot
29 "__ Lang Syne"
31 Fifty-fifty
33 St. Patrick Day's images
34 Irish Rose's lover
35 Survey of public opinion
38 Atoms of differing masses
39 Tithe
42 Meaningful gestures
45 Actress West
47 Obvious toupee
48 Philly team
49 Discontinue
50 Disney's Little Mermaid
51 Of ocean motion
52 __ blanche
54 Actor Lugosi
55 Support bar
57 Poker token
58 Kiddies
61 NASA's ISS partner

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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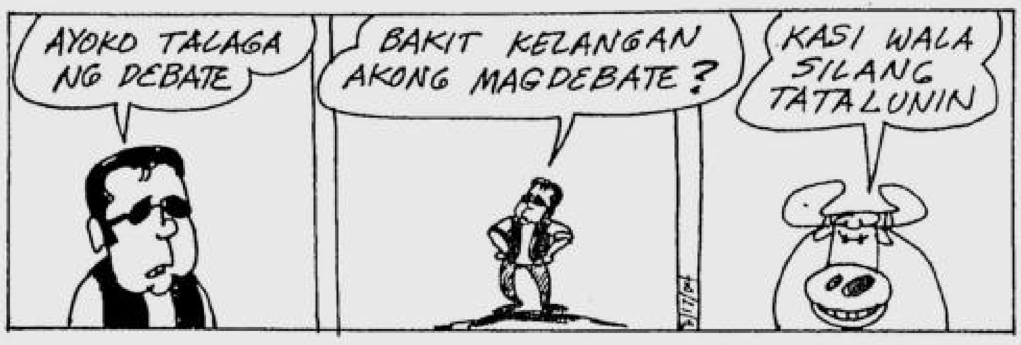
3/17/04

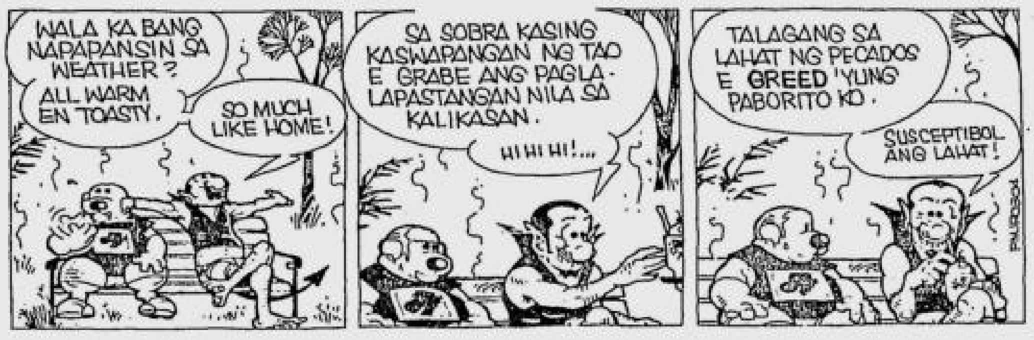
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


AYOKO TALAGA NG DEBATE
BAKIT KELANGAN AKONG MAGDEBATE?
KASI WALA SILANG TATALUNIN

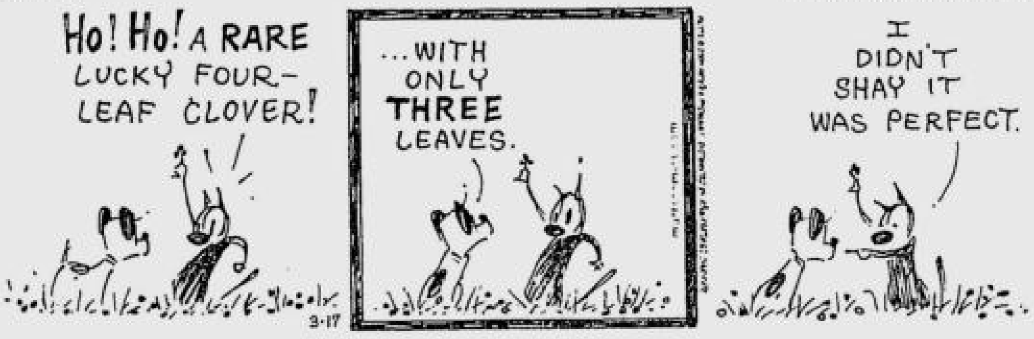
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


WALA KA BANG NAPAPANSIN SA WEATHER? ALL WARM EN TOASTY.
SO MUCH LIKE HOME!
SA SOBRA KASING KASWAPANGAN NG TAO E GRABE ANG PAGLALAPASTANGAN NILA SA KALIKASAN.
HI HI HI!...
TALAGANG SA LAHAT NG PECADOS E GREED 'YUNG PABORITO KO.
SUSCEPTIBOL ANG LAHAT!

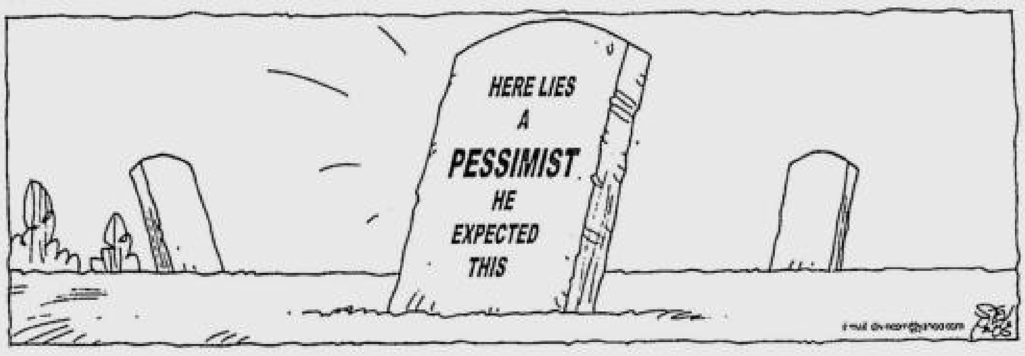
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Ho! Ho! A RARE LUCKY FOUR-LEAF CLOVER!
3-17
...WITH ONLY THREE LEAVES.
I DIDN'T SHAY IT WAS PERFECT.

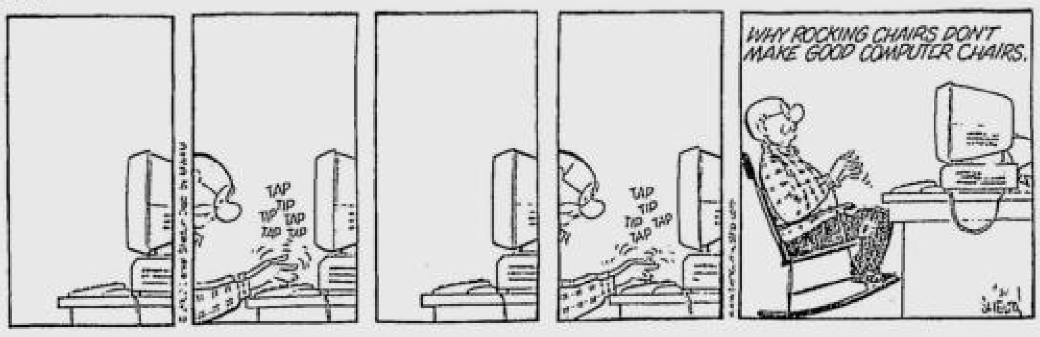
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


HERE LIES A PESSIMIST. HE EXPECTED THIS

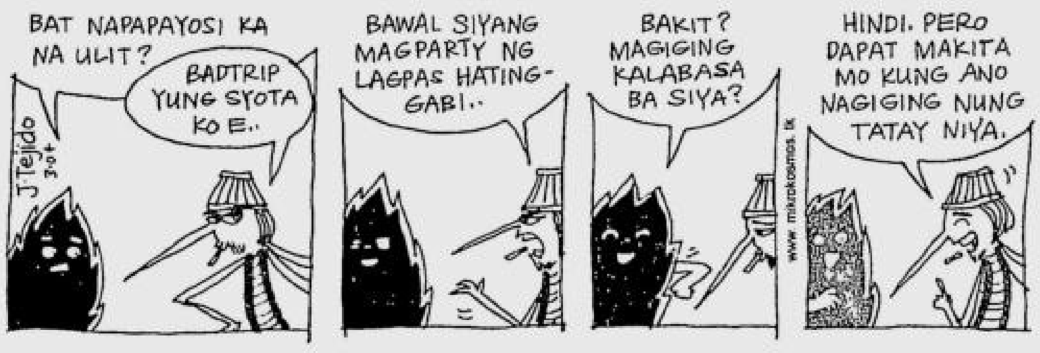
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


TAP TIP TAP TAP TAP
TAP TIP TIP TAP TAP
WHY ROCKING CHAIRS DON'T MAKE GOOD COMPUTER CHAIRS.

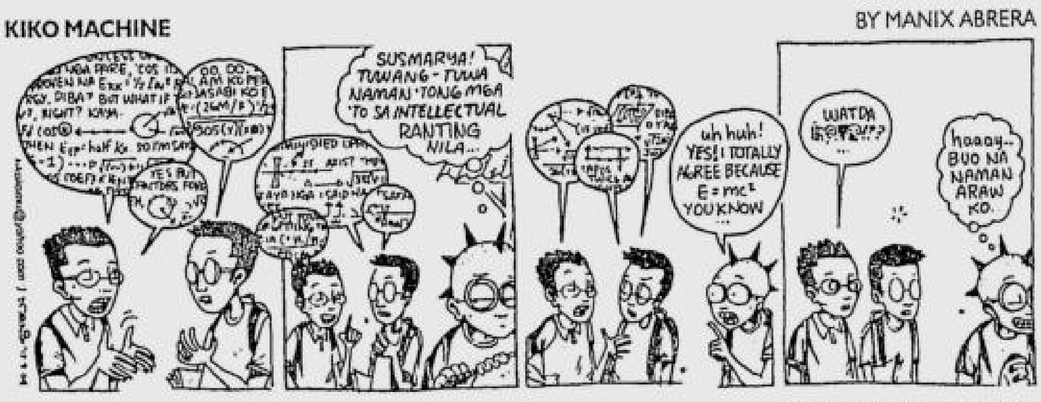
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BAT NAPAPAYOSI KA NA ULIT?
BADTRIP YUNG SYOTA KO E..
J Tejido 3'04
BAWAL SIYANG MAGPARTY NG LAGPAS HATING-GABI..
BAKIT? MAGIGING KALABASA BA SIYA?
www.mikrokosmos.tk
HINDI. PERO DAPAT MAKITA MO KUNG ANO NAGIGING NUNG TATAY NIYA.

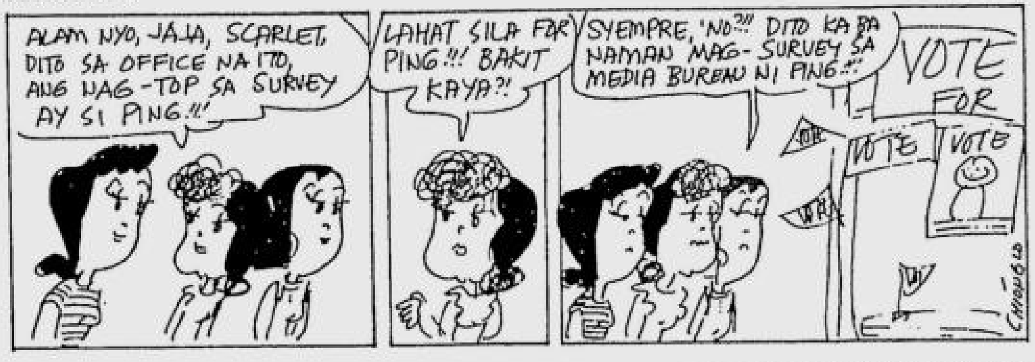
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


SUSMARYA! TUWANG-TUWA NAMAN 'TONG MGA 'TO SA INTELLECTUAL RANTING NILA...
uh huh! YES! I TOTALLY AGREE BECAUSE E=mc² YOU KNOW ...
hooay.. BUO NA NAMAN ARAW KO.

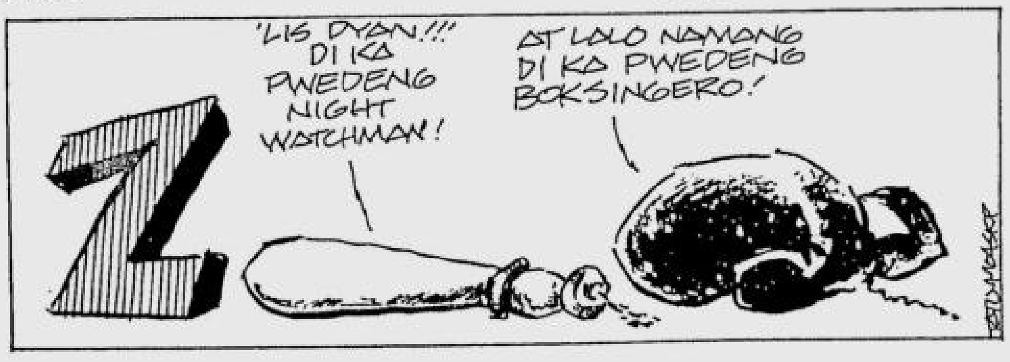
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM NYO, JAJA, SCARLET, DITO SA OFFICE NA ITO, ANG NAG-TOP SA SURVEY AY SI PING!!!
LAHAT SILA FOR PING!!! BAKIT KAYA?!
SYEMPRE, 'NO?!! DITO KA BA NAMAN MAG-SURVEY SA MEDIA BUREAU NI PING!!!
VOTE FOR
VOTE
VOTE
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


'LIS DYAN!!! DI KA PWEDENG NIGHT WATCHMAN!
AT LOLO NAMANG DI KA PWEDENG BOKSINGERO!
Z

A stellar experience

By Nicole V. Ignacio
Contributor

THE DAY had come.

After over a month of waiting, I was finally just a few hours away from witnessing Incubus perform in the flesh. I've been a fan long before their songs drifted into the mainstream, and my head spun at the very thought of them setting foot on Philippine soil.

When news came that they've arrived, my fears about the concert not pushing through subsided. I had a ticket kept safely in my drawer, and all I had to do was wait and stay sane enough to make it to the concert that evening.

The (subtle) stalking

"Incubus is checked in at The Westin Philippine Plaza."

That piece of information went off like a bomb as soon as my friends heard it. That very afternoon, they insisted that we go to the hotel right away. I agreed but only half-heartedly, knowing that there was a slim chance of us catching even just a glimpse of any of the guys from the band.

But I counted myself in anyway and, with that, we flagged down a taxi in Glorietta, the driver saying that he knew how to get to our destination. Unfortunately, it turned out that he didn't, and neither did we, so we had to ask pedestrians for directions several times.

The heat was almost unbearable, and everyone was starting to get into a foul mood. When we finally reached the hotel, the hotel staff eyed us suspiciously as we wandered around the place. Surprisingly, there weren't mobs of screaming fans anywhere in sight.

Just as we were starting to lose all eagerness, we had our first Incubus-member-sighting: Ben Kenney going up the escalator. We didn't recognize him right away because he looked like a regular tourist, wearing shorts and carrying an SLR camera.

STALKING INCUBUS. Brandon Boyd and Mike Einziger after a swim NICOLE ALFONSO

Our moods took a 360-degree turn, thinking that the other guys could just appear anytime. And they did.

Second Incubus-member-sighting: Mike Einziger. We were petrified when we saw him walking to the hall leading to the pool, and when one of us finally mustered up the strength to go up to him, his bodyguard brushed us off, but Mike actually stopped and introduced himself to us!

He shook our hands one by one and thanked us when we told him we were going to watch their concert. My mouth must've been hanging open, but I couldn't fully remember. I hope it wasn't.

Third Incubus-member-sighting: DJ Kilmore. We were calling his name while he was on his way to the pool, but he apologized and said that he had to get going. Oh well.

Fourth and fifth Incubus-member-sighting: Brandon Boyd in white board shorts, and Jose Pasillas. They were hanging out by the pool, and unfortunately we weren't allowed out there, so we had to content ourselves by just staring through the window.

> Whatever I had gone through that day did not prepare me for the cosmic experience of enjoying Incubus live

We decided to stay there and wait for them to come in. When they did, we lost our composure and called out the guys' names, album sleeves and markers in hand. Their bodyguards didn't allow them to stop and sign autographs, so we disappointedly watched them walk away.

But they were nice enough to smile and murmur apologies. Well it wasn't so bad, considering that we came as close as a meter away from the people whom we consider demi-gods.

And there was the concert to look forward to, after all.

Pre-concert rants

From Westin, we walked to the CCP grounds and went to our designated area. We were disappointed to see that there were fixed monoblock chairs. There were only a few food vendors inside and the prices were unreasonable.

The show was late for at least half an hour and everyone was pretty agitated. But what followed was definitely worth the wait.

In the moshpit

"I won't take this sitting down!" I told my friend right before the show started. So we hopped off of our chairs and squirmed our way towards the heart of the moshpit, pushing aside sweaty bodies and screaming fans.

When the first guitar riff was heard, everyone froze for a half-second, then erupted in cheers. I stood there, amidst the frenzy, wide-eyed and mesmerized. Whatever I had gone through that day did not prepare me for the cosmic experience that followed.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

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Bowing before the gods of rock

From page E1

just like a little kid."

Transitional phase

Their new album seems to reflect the "transitional phase" that the band has undergone recently.

Some critics find "Crow" following the footsteps of its two "mellower" predecessors, while some think it sounds more like their older material. But after 13 years in the biz, the band believes that its style has become more mature while infusing different elements into each album.

"It's refreshing... to have this new music to share with people, and we never tried to repeat ourselves," Mike explains. "I think that the spirit with which 'Crow' was made was much like when we were younger—it has a lot of the same energy, the same kind of excitement... I think all of us sometimes feel like we've just made our first record ever."

What about the lyrics? Are anger and politics what really influenced them and set them apart from the previous ones?

"We're mostly just inspired by our own observations and how we look at the world," Brandon says. "There was a wealth of things going on in and around the world that were really inspiring, even infuriating... We didn't really have a shortage of things to write about."

"Touring, traveling... There are a few other elements, but it's mostly each other," Mike adds.

Same philosophies

The changes the band went through were, for the most part, advantageous. For the members, the days they spent working with producer Brendan O'Brien were good times.

"He made a lot of the albums... that actually inspired us to start a band," says Mike. "So when the time came for us to choose who would make this record, it was an obvious choice."

He adds, "He shares the same philosophies as we do about making records, like doing it quickly and not overthinking what you're doing. It's really important to us."

Clearly, these guys aren't ones to waste time—one thing that new bassist Ben Kenney (who's replaced original member Dirk Lance) shares with them.

From the hiphop beats of The Roots, his former band, to the rock riffs of Incubus, how does Ben feel about shifting genres?

"It's a drastic difference, but overall I love to play whatever I can play, so to play rock was kind of natural for me as when I played hip hop. These guys just kind of speak their own instruments the way I do," he says.

The rest of the band echoes his sentiments. "We didn't really have to adjust to anything to work with Ben," Jose says. "He's very well-rounded as a musician... so it was really natural for us to make music with [him]."

Philanthropic work

These guys have something else other than their music for fans to idolize them. The proceeds from their mondo-successful shows largely go to the Make Yourself Foundation, which they started some time ago as a funding vehicle for certain causes they believed in.

A couple of these are the Painted Turtle Foundation, a camp for terminally ill children, and the Silverlake Conservatory of Music, which Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers had started.

"There are just some wonderful things that people out there are doing in the world, and in some cases a lot of young people wouldn't know they were there," Brandon says. "We just want to basically make a resource that people could go to and discover some really cool causes."

In fact, the band aims to raise a million dollars by the end of this year and donate all of them to those charities. Awww.

Inspiration

The guys don't seem to be fazed by the fact that they have become the inspiration of most fledgling bands, although they do look a bit stumped when actually told about it by the press.

"I think it's important when you're starting out to take a few pointers from your favorite musicians," says DJ Kilmore, "but at all times, remember that it's your instrument and it's coming out of you... you can do whatever you want with it and not just copy anybody."

Jose adds, "As long as you're inspired by it, I think it's a good thing."

The band has been around for such a long time, and it's refreshing to know that the guys still love what they do, and that they have each other to thank for everything.

"I think we've gotten better... Over the years it's been a slow, arduous growing process," says Brandon. "[But] every day we're just really thankful to be getting together and making music... so I think that's truly inspiring."

As the guys stand up to leave, Brandon turns back to wave goodbye at us, and I can only wave back dumbly, praying to the music gods that I don't look like a starstruck fan. Oh wait, I already am.

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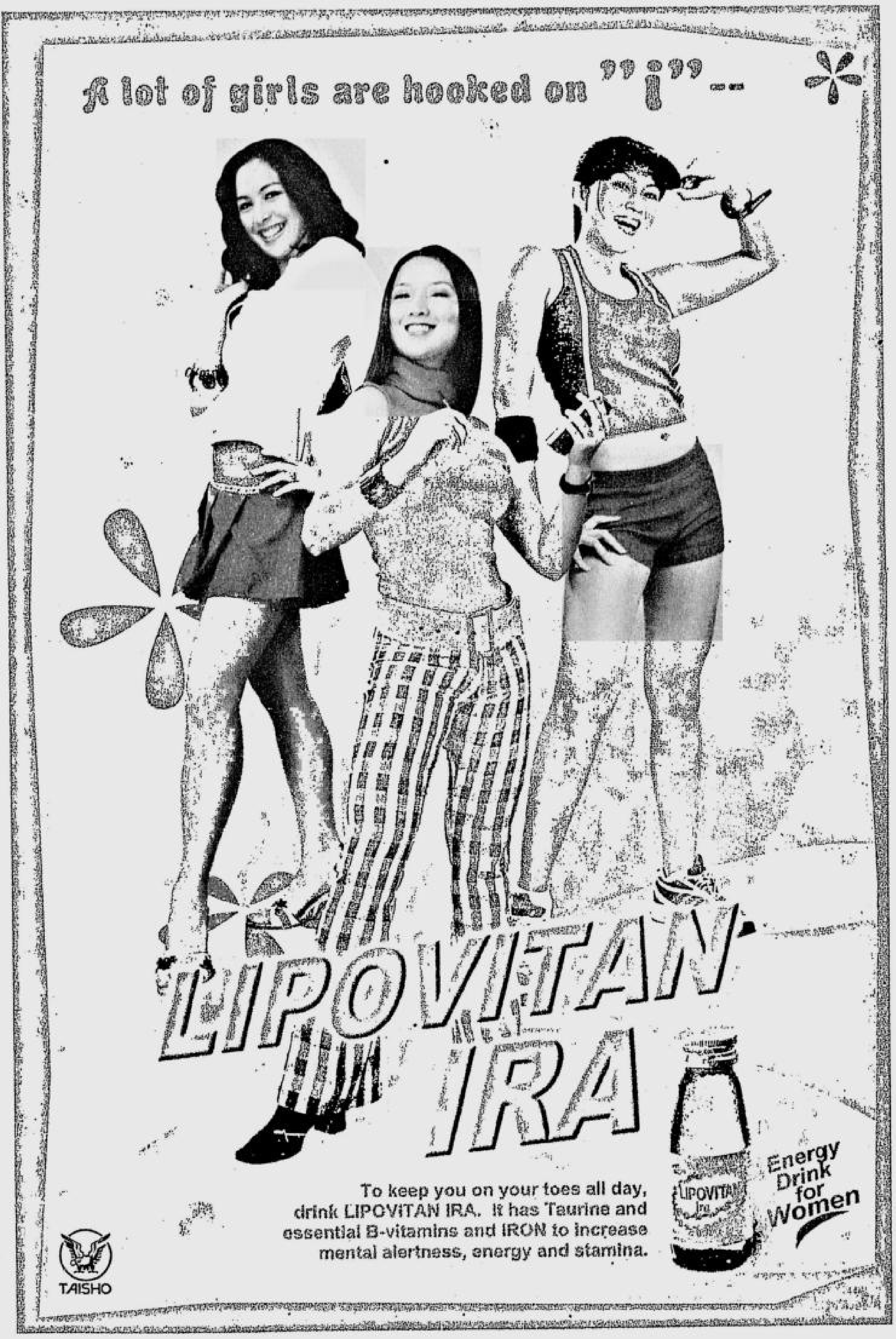

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UP tops public speaking competition

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

ON MARCH 6, University of the Philippines-Diliman's Patricia Evangelista won the English Speaking Union (ESU) Philippines Public Speaking Competition held in the Social Science Audio Visual Room of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Glenn Tuazon of ADMU and Carl Ng of UPD were awarded second and third place, respectively.

Evangelista, a Speech Communication sophomore, will fly to London to represent the country in ESU's International Speaking Competition on May 14, courtesy of ESU-Philippines.

Tuazon may also join Evangelista if there is sufficient funding, since each participating country is allowed to send up to two representatives to the competition.

The annual International Speaking Competition, which began in 1981, aims to "encourage the effective use of English as a means of international communication, as well as a variety of current affairs and cultural activities aimed at improving international understanding."

Selection

Eight speakers took part in the recent ESU-Philippines Public Speaking competition. To determine which contestants will be selected, ESU-Philippines got the top 20 ranking speakers in the recently concluded 3rd INQUIRER Inter-collegiate Debate Competition (IIDC), co-hosted by the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and the University of the Philippines' Debate Society, and invited those who were age-qualified to join the competition.

The International Speaking Competition contest rules specify that speakers must not be older than 20 years old by May 15, 2004, which is the date the said competition will be concluded.

The speakers who joined the competition were Tuazon (ADMU), Miguel Jalandoni (De La Salle University), Stephanie Sarah Tan (DLSU), Evangelista (UPD), Ng (UPD), Ben Joshua Baltazar (UPD), Yves Aquino (UPD) and Tracey Llanera (University of Santo Tomas).

The contestants were given a week to prepare a five-minute speech on the topic, "The Borderless World."

"This is the same topic given in the tournament in London," said Nicole Curato, tournament director of the 3rd IIDC and one of the organizers of this year's ESU-Philippines Public Speaking Competition.

THIS year's participants with the panel of judges. The competition aims to encourage the use of English as a means of international communication.

Wealth of ideas

The young speakers found innovative ways to interpret the topic, revealing a wealth of ideas that displayed their intellect, zeal and youthful idealism.

Llanera proposed a fusion of countries and cultures through understanding and appreciating one's own first.

"When you become distinct and when you become proud of yourself, only then will other nations also recognize you," he said.

Through this interplay of cultural appreciation and understanding, Llanera believes we can live in "a truly globalized world."

Ng suggested that the phenomenon of Filipino diaspora is beneficial for the Philippines, unlike what some may believe, "as it creates not a brain drain but a brain gain."

For the *balikbayans* "who have learned from living abroad have imbibed new talents, new skills and new ideas. When they come back to the Philippines, they exert a transformational change on our institution and on our society," he explained.

Meanwhile, those who decided to remain abroad could pose for the Philippines, if these "overseas Filipinos" realize that there is "hope for progress in the Philippines and that they are the ones who are that hope."

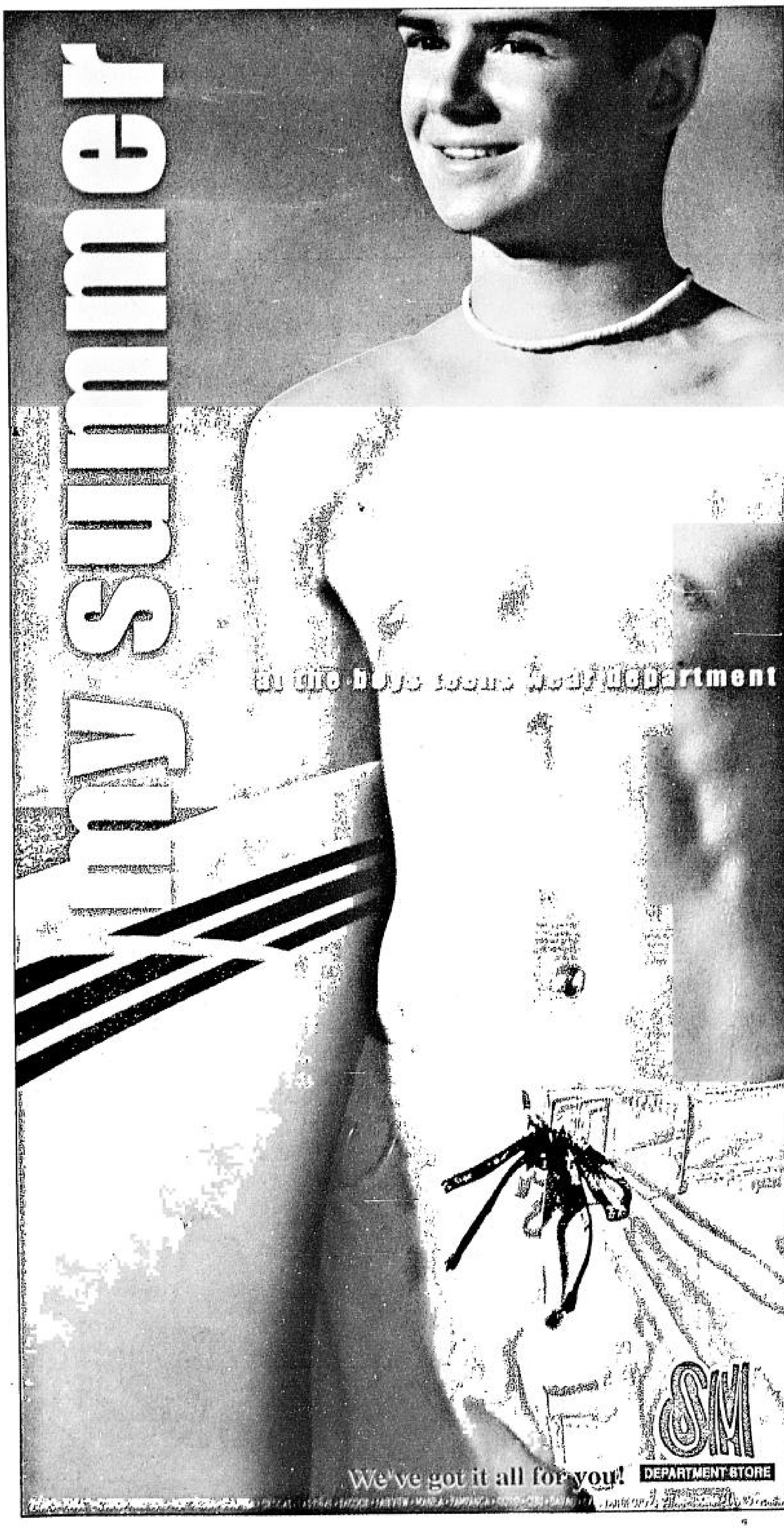
Evangelista's winning speech talked about the dreams of young Filipinos, such as herself, in becoming blond-haired, blue-eyed and first-world citizens.

"Given the borderless world, it's possible for you to get out of the country, stay out of the sinking ship, and start a new life somewhere else. [But] being a Filipino, you have to deal with your pride here, and you give up that pride when you chicken out and take off somewhere," she said.

Then she concluded, "Maybe, given a choice, I won't ask to be born a Filipino, but I was born a Filipino, and that's something that's worth something to me."

Judges were given two minutes to ask questions after each contestant finished his or her speech.

The panel consisted of Ambassador Cesar Bautista, former Philippine Ambassador to London; Leo Herrare Lim; lawyer Katrina Legarda; Dr. Butch Dalisay and Krip Yuson, writers and teachers; Dr. Lourdes Montinola of the Far Eastern University; Gill Nestaway of the British Council; and Ryan Buanafe and Camille Ng, past Philippine representatives to ESU's International Speaking Competition.



Did she lose her best friend or has she found love?

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mabino

DEAR Mark and Sep.

I have this guy best friend and we've been the best of friends since we were in high school. Now we are both 24. I must admit that before—way back when our friendship was still "young," I had entertained the idea of us being a romantic couple. But, as time passed by, I realized that we are just that—best friends. And probably just soul mates. He had girl friends and has one now and I had BFs, too.

Then last year, our family moved to a new place in another province. And every time I visited the whole *barkada*, I spent time in their place. In his very room, right beside him, together with our other male friend.

Hugs and *daklay* were just ordinary and, honest, it was no big deal on my part. Until the last time, I just woke up and realized he was kissing me on the lips and he was touching me all over.

But it was just that, nothing further. Had we been alone on that bed, we could have crossed the boundaries. It was my first "real" kiss and my first passionate encounter (talking about being still *engot* at 24!).

And now, I don't know what to think and what to feel. We never had the chance to talk since then. Maybe because my phone is busted until now, so I don't have any idea if he has tried to reach me. Besides, somehow I fear the confrontation, that's why I don't have it fixed.

As for me, I'm confused with my feelings for him more than ever. Sometimes I think/feel I'm in love with him and sometimes I'm not sure.

But what I am very sure of is that it pains me just thinking what's in store for us after that incident. Did I find the love that I've long been looking for, although there is this one who's very persistent? Or did I lose my best friend, because I don't think I'll be able to look him in the eye and feel at ease with him again just like before?

Am I right to believe that he should make the first move to settle this matter between us? Or if he doesn't, am I right to think that it was just a spur-of-the-moment sense of lust on his part? That in one way or another I tempted him, that I am to blame considering the so-called "men's nature"?

JOEWEE

Don't think you tempted him just because you're sexy, beautiful and irresistible, except, of course, if you pouted your lips while pretending to be asleep and wore that extra-revealing top you wear only during hot summer afternoons.

Yes, you are right to believe that he should make the first move to settle the matter between you, but considering how most men in similar situations would suddenly lose their balls, I think you should do the approaching. Besides, you're being unfair by not having your phone fixed. Don't be afraid of the truth. A confrontation will make you move on with your lives. Separately or together, it doesn't matter. Moving on is healthy.

Did you lose your best friend or have you finally found that love you've been searching for? I don't know. Only the feared confrontation can enlighten both of you. So do your part in making that confrontation possible. As soon as you can. Being best friends and all that, opening up to one another shouldn't be a problem.

MARK

I think the question of whether or not it was your fault to sleep beside your male best friend and tempt him—a full-grown man at the peak of his sexuality—is unimportant. Yes, at 24 years old, you're pretty much the *engot* you've called yourself. It's also quite unbelievable that you've let this incident and many other *daklays* pass without calling him on it. But that is what has happened and, if anything, it made one thing clear: You like this guy as more than a friend. So much so that you allowed him to cross the last boundary in messing up a platonic relationship, which is sex. "Nothing" may have happened but let's all admit it. Something did.

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Now the more pertinent question in this thing is what does your best friend have to say about it? He's the only fuzzy factor in this scenario and it's high time that you demand for him to tell you what is going on. In fact, you have every right to do so. So you slept beside him, a stupid idea, and ended up getting kissed and fondled all over. Big deal. He was the one who did the kissing, who did the fondling and who took advantage of you. If anything, he's at bigger fault here. So if he has been too chicken to explain his actions, then you get your phone fixed right away or, better yet, go over to his house and confront him. Because that is the only thing I can think of that could give you the answers you've been looking for.

SEPTEMBER

E-mail the writers at markandsep@yahoo.com. Chatroom is inviting letter senders to indicate if they want their e-mail address printed so wannabe Mark and Sep's out there can get in touch with problematic readers and send in their comments and advice.